

# SEVEN DAYS

FREE

VERMONT'S INDEPENDENT VOICE OCTOBER 20-26, 2009 VOL. 16 NO. 16 SEVENDAYSVT.COM

## Passing on the Pasture

Vermont's new crop of educated dairy farmers faces an uncertain future

BY KIM BARDASHIAN, PAGE 10

### THE 20/20 CHALLENGE

PAGE 26

Lauren Ober indexes out the winter



### CRIME AND PTSD

PAGE 34

A court for brain-injured vets

### LAST CALL

PAGE 44

The Jazz Guys say goodbye



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# THE LAST SEVEN NEVER

DEC. 22 DEC. 29 2003 / COMPLETION DAY/EVERETT

## Climate Changers

**O**n Monday December 7, representatives from 162 countries gathered in Copenhagen, Denmark, for a UN climate summit. On the opening day of the summit, the Conservative Club at St. Michaels College hosted a screening of *Not Just Wrong*, a documentary critical of the entire global warming hysteria.

Seven Days correspondent Kevin J. Kelley who teaches at St. Mike's, attended the event and posted his report to Seven's staff blog. A full house of 90 students watched the 90 minute documentary which claims among other things that there's nothing wrong with global warming.

No opportunity was offered for debate following last night's screening of *Not Just Wrong* (see on Seven's "Despite the St. Mike's conservatives claim that they want to promote debate on the global-warming debate. We hope to get speakers in the future on both sides, debate another "settled" issue," says Steven Zolnowski, a member of the Conservative Club."

Read more about the film and share your comments at [sevendays.net](http://sevendays.net)



## blogworthy last week...

SEVENDAYS.ET.COM/BLOG



**SEVEN** This week's Best blog - *What's new in Burlington*



**SEVEN** "You don't deserve to be a politician. American!" - Editorial from our friends at *sun.org*



**SEVEN** "You don't deserve to be a politician. American!" - Editorial from our friends at *sun.org*



**SEVEN** Another "You don't deserve to be a politician. American!" - Editorial from our friends at *sun.org*



**SEVEN** "You don't deserve to be a politician. American!" - Editorial from our friends at *sun.org*

## facing facts



### JUDGES NEW HUNTERS

New York's new judges are expected to be a mix of liberal and conservative. Some are expected to be more moderate than others. They will be the first to be elected in a state-wide election since 1992.



### DEBATE VS. DEBATE

US Senator Barack Obama has been elected to the US Senate. He is the first African American to be elected to the Senate. He is also the first to be elected to the Senate from a state that was once part of the Confederacy.



### TARGET PRACTICE

A World's Worst list of the top 100 most dangerous cities in the world. The list is based on a variety of factors, including crime rates, terrorism, and natural disasters.



### LOMA TOWER

Loma Tower is a new tower in Loma, California. It is the tallest tower in the world. It is also the tallest tower in the United States. It is also the tallest tower in the world.

For more facts, visit [www.sevendays.net](http://www.sevendays.net)

## \$800 million

This is the amount of money that the state of Vermont has allocated for the construction of a new bridge over the Winooski River. The bridge is expected to be completed in 2008.



## TOP FIVE

Most popular news stories of the week

1. **Could Terry Engle be the Next Governor?** Former Governor Terry Engle is running for Governor in 2008.
2. **"Guns for Peace"** Seven Days coverage of the gun show in Burlington.
3. **State of the State: Live Radio Broadcast** by *Seven Days* on the radio.
4. **"For Sale: The House of the Future"** by *Seven Days* on the radio.
5. **"Independent Contractor" or Employee?** The difference between the two is \$2.8 million.

## now we're following:

**Wald, Vermont**  
Wald, Vermont is a small town in the state of Vermont. It is known for its beautiful scenery and its friendly people.

For more facts, visit [www.sevendays.net](http://www.sevendays.net)



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# the MAGNIFICENT 7

MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS YEAR

COMPILED BY CAROLYN FOX

THURSDAY 10

## You-Know-Who Is Coming to Town

The yuletide just won't be the same since you've walked about the local winter wonderland of filmmaker John Wilson. Catch a screening and his former monologues **A John Wilson Christmas** (on Thursday Winter Blue Lanes), who narrated the "Page of Truth" in last week's Seven Digs, says "The greatest theme movie about the holiday season on earth: *Mean and the Chipmunks*."

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 37

3

FRIDAY 11

## Recycled Life

Last month, Seven Digs videographer Eric Saltberger followed the trail of recycling in an episode of "Back in Vermont." View it on the Seven Digs website. Now, folks can see the sorting conveyor belts, print signage and long-range cameras for the movies in the **Materials Recovery Facility Tour** (with Chittenden Solid Waste District's Dave Lewis describes on-line part Peter Goldberg, two parts Willy Wonka).

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 37

SATURDAY 12 - SUNDAY 13

## Winter Daze

Can't get in the hot dog stand? Then

escape the frigid with **Wacky Daze**

**Verdict Show & Bake Sale** a

weekend bash hosted by

Calypso. The star, look for the

arrives of musical performers

including the House of

Leffing, inspire comedians

Jason Carter and Gail in

Grand Vermont

Weekend and a

delightful of others

Three delectable

breaks into the new

and its new line

than a barrel of

realities.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 38



4

# FRIDAY 11 Bringin' Down the House

In the mood to take the roof? **Housestop**, a self-described "jumpy factory" act of Brooklynians provide a welcome mix of throwbacks to the '80s and '90s with an eclectic repertoire encompassing pop, disco, old-time American songs, and jug-band tunes. Four-part vocals are designed to sing listeners once they've all been asked to dance your socks off.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 57



## FRIDAY 11 - SUNDAY 13 It Takes a Village

If you've been searching for a cozy December first look no further than Woodstock's annual **Massed Woodshed**. The weekend's three-day, 24-hour party is brimming with long-standing winter traditions, ranging from holiday house tours to craft fairs to children's fun on the town square. An auctioneer provides a bit of festive fun to augment the fun.

SEE CALENDAR SPT/LIGHT ON PAGE 54 AND LISTING ON PAGE 57

# FRIDAY 11 Full Speed Ahead

Accidentally dropping nearly 200 shows per year, singer-songwriter **Kim McCreesh** has a new album, *The Island*, to mark it. It comes through a her songs (see which one is a modern blend of pop and rock, loaded with energetic electronics and a dash of swing. The Virgin material plays the piano ballad and guitar. The previous to keep up with this one.

SEE MUSIC LISTING ON PAGE 57



# ONGOING One Step Ahead

What does the future of the Green Mountain State look like? **Maureen** can tell you. But 10 local artists have some ideas. **"The Art of Actual"** is an ongoing, online art and exhibit all offerings that transport viewers around in time. Post your opinion on the state of the landscape, as well as images of the state and paintings, such as Phil Golder's *Maureen's* human map of Vermont. Park Vermont. Hey you never know.

SEE REYNA J. KELLEY'S ART REVIEW ON PAGE 58

## everything else...

|          |      |
|----------|------|
| MUSIC    | PAGE |
| CALENDAR | PAGE |
| CLASSICS | PAGE |
| ART      | PAGE |
| MOVIES   | PAGE |

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FAIR GAME | Open season on Vermont politics BY SHIRT TOTTER

## Take It Back

**T**he just-dropped \$6.8 million retirement package awarded to the outgoing president and chief executive officer of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont may have been illegal, according to the state's top consumer regulator.

The finding was issued last month by Banking, Insurance, Securities and Health Care Administration committee member **FRANKIE THORNTON** on a six-page "show cause order" denying the insurer a company's proposed rate hikes for roughly 6000 health savings accounts customers.

The savings proposal premium increase for that group is 25 percent, though some plan provisions could rise as much as 80 percent.

It's enough to make you sick.

"There is cause to believe that this excessive monetary award is contrary to the insurance laws of this state, contrary to the laws regulating the company and its obligations to subscribers, and contrary to the company's obligations to its subscribers as a nonprofit corporation," Thornton's order said. "The commissioner acknowledged and supports the continuing efforts of the current management of the company to reduce the total retirement compensation paid to the company's former chief operating officer."

An "Old Game" first reported in January, **WILLIAM R. HUNTER JR.** received \$725 million when he left BCBS last December after 20 years of service, 10 of them in Vermont. He is credited for "saving" BCBS in the state. In this case, however, guess.

BCBS officials tell "Old Game" they do not believe they broke any Vermont law by giving Hunter a package.

"We are talking with the department about how to resolve their concerns on the issues surrounding the retirement payment," said **KEVIN GOODARD**, vice president of external affairs.

How so?  
"We have engaged in the process to determine if it's possible for some of the retirement benefit to be reduced or recouped," said Goodard. He declined to provide further details.

In the meantime, they'll just keep squeezing blood from their subscribers.

### Monkeying Around

At last November 20 press conference, regulator questioned auditor **TOM SALMON** about his decision to use two video employees to videotape the event and hand out materials related to his office provisions and personal finances.

Those employees, and their spouses, were rehearsing presentations and pay raises with the auditor the night he was

conference, and for a "speech made in Burlington."

Hmm. That last one sounds vague. "Old Game" requested that the auditor divulge the content of the tapes. He produced them, and charged fees. Says \$155 to create three DVDs.

What's on there? Lots about auditing, accountability and the state's finances. There was also that "speech made in Burlington."

It had to do with money, but not the state's checkbook. It was a June 11 political fundraiser at the St. John's Club that netted Salmon at least \$150, according to campaign finance records.

Donor lists include political leaders **WILLIAM STANFORD**, **OWEN CRATES** and Salmon's dad, Gov. **THOMAS P. SALMON**, were at the fundraiser, the Salmon fly thanked some of them, along with office staffers in the background, for their support.

"If I ever get to the big office, I'll tell you right now, I'm going to be about reform and honesty and commitment, and I appreciate your help with me getting them," Salmon told the crowd of supporters. "I may raise \$100,000 as auditor, and if I have anything left will be for the next campaign and I hope you will help me get there."

One thing might get in the way: Taping a political speech with a tax payer purchased camera may violate state rules and regs.

Here's what it says on the state personnel manual: "An employee shall not use State property or equipment for his private use or for any use other than that which serves the public interest."

There's also Bulletin 561, which reads: "Employees shall not use, or at tempt to use, state personnel, property, or equipment for their private use or for any use not required for the proper discharge of their official duties."

Salmon defends his actions.  
"Giving a Vermont state camera to record speeches of my kind, or even 'Vermont this Week,' could add value to Vermonters," wrote Salmon in an e-mail to "Old Game." "I don't think some folks think about the genuine challenges

faced over and changed with a DUI. Last week, Salmon pleaded guilty and paid a \$500 fine — along with \$875 in court surcharges. Soon thereafter, he gave up his license for 90 days.

Salmon thought it appropriate to have staffers on hand to videotape the press conference speech, and to make an important point: Despite the increased compensation and promotions, his office will spend less money on personnel this year.

"Do I think it's going to help Vermonters financially if what happens here today is documented, emotional, isn't it going to help the legislature make better choices and decisions?" Salmon asked reporters at the presser. "Yes, yes, I think it's profound."

After further questions from "Old Game" and others in the media, Salmon issued a memo exploring the camera's origin. It was purchased on June 5 in Rome, along with a carrying case, an extra battery and a tripod. Together paid \$560 total.

His idea and the camera has been used four times on June 8, to tape testimony before the Joint Legislative Government Accountability Committee, on June 24, to film a speech at a Vermont League of Cities and Towns symposium, on November 20, to document the press

WE HAVE ENGAGED IN THE PROCESS TO DETERMINE IF IT'S POSSIBLE FOR SOME OF THE RETIREMENT BENEFIT TO BE REDUCED OR RECOUPED.

KEVIN GOODARD, BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF VERMONT



## A New Chittenden County Court Commits Itself to "Veteran" Crime

BY ANDY BROMAGE

**G**uyle Wins still suffers flashbacks from late February, when he lay in bed, alone, on Iraq war veteran, checked her to within an inch of her life.

In photographs, Army Staff Sgt. Michael McLellan reads professional — a steady soldier with a calm and an intense gaze. But the night he showed up at Wins' Wisconsin apartment and drew out a razor, standing before him, punching holes in the walls and tapping the first scene of the movie *Twelve Years a Slave*.

McLellan checked Wins, leaving bruises on her forearm. When he stopped his hand around her neck, Wins says she struggled to pry it off. Dangling for an hour, McLellan's thumb back until he yanked her.

When she finally got her out the door, Wins screamed for the police and called 911. Police subsequently caught up with McLellan — who admitted he grabbed Wins but denied choking her — and charged him with aggravated domestic assault.

Only later would prosecution learn that back the attack, McLellan, 33, suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, stemming from a traumatic brain injury he sustained while serving in Iraq.

Wins is telling her story to shine a spotlight on PTSD and the need she was for retaining combat veterans.

There is just not enough support and help for these soldiers, says Wins, a 51-year-old high school science teacher who dated McLellan off and on for two years after his return from Iraq.

As Vermont prepares for its largest troop deployment after World War II — the first of 1,000 National Guard soldiers begins shipping off for Afghanistan, on Wednesday, on December 4 — mental health professionals are warning of large numbers of soldiers coming home with combat-related diseases.

With the Afghanistan war entering its sixth year, studies suggest that as many as one in three combat vets exhibit symptoms of PTSD, including alcohol and drug abuse,

anxiety, and depression interrupted by bursts of rage.

As was the case with McLellan, PTSD is also a contributing factor in some crimes committed by veterans. Chittenden County State's Attorney T.J. Donovan says he's seen more soldiers come through the courthouse lately — including some soldiers who haven't yet deployed. The charges range from drunk driving to assault, Donovan says.

The numbers are significant enough to

of Vermont's College of Medicine, heading the group creating the special court project. It's called the Mental Health Interagency Service System Interactive Online Network — MHSISON Vermont, for short.

The program will work to identify defendants with military backgrounds and determine whether PTSD or traumatic brain injury was a factor in the crime. Then, using advanced health IT systems, the court can tailor punishments and treatments to address the root cause of the offense.

Stimpert stresses that the project is not a "get out of jail free card" for veterans.



**THE VERMONT PROGRAM WILL WORK TO IDENTIFY DEFENDANTS WITH MILITARY BACKGROUNDS AND DETERMINE WHETHER PTSD OR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IS A MITIGATING FACTOR IN THE CRIME.**

justify a special court to deal with veterans — and nonveterans — whose brain injuries and trauma-related diseases contributed to criminal acts. A pilot program will launch within weeks at Chittenden County District Court.

Like Wins' case, the existing treatment courts for mental illness and substance abuse, the veterans court will employ clinicians and case managers to direct offenders, who are possible, toward job diversion programs and treatment instead of prison.

Dr. Tim Stimpert, who directs the Division of Public Psychiatry at the University

of Vermont, says the program is not a system that corresponds to the circumstances unique to combat vets.

"This is not special treatment," says Stimpert, noting the court program will be available to service vets with brain injuries or trauma-related diseases. "It's meant to be equivalent of saying if it's a soft ball, then to keep going once then we know about. My hope is we could have a more sophisticated band understanding of how this."

The MHSISON Vermont project is a partnership between UNVH and the Vermont Department of Mental Health. The program

is funded for five years through a \$21 million grant from the Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Last year Vermont received a \$1 million award by SAMHSA to create money for a veteran's jail diversion program. In recent years, Vermont has seen several crimes that were a result of violent crimes, a number of which are being blamed in part on post-traumatic stress. At least one vet appears, at least on paper, to be a chronic offender.

Donal Donatelli, 33, a private first class with the Vermont National Guard, racked up a string of criminal charges after serving six months in Somalia, Iraq, and returning home with PTSD.

In the most serious offense, an intoxicated Donatelli broke up a fight in downtown Winooski in 2007 by pulling a 9-mm handgun from his waistband and firing into the air.

He was sentenced to 40 days in jail, and ordered to undergo mental health counseling that lasted three years later. Donatelli found himself back before a judge, pleading guilty to disorderly conduct in a late night fight outside a bar in Burlington. He was sentenced to the day on a work order and fined \$100.

Master Sgt. Charles Elmer of South Burlington, who was diagnosed with PTSD after serving states in Iraq and Guantanamo

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Erin Wilson



Ray was charged with simple and aggravated assault following an episode in home in December 2004. According to a Burlington Free Press report, Elliott suffered a panic attack when his father cut his head open on a piece of exercise gear.

His father went to reconcile him, but Charles started throwing punches. The family called 911 expecting paramedics, but police arrived and, ultimately, charged Elliott criminally.

More recently, Stephen LaForte, a 27-year-old combat medic from Virginia who reportedly served 18 months in Iraq, turned himself in to South Burlington police for attempted rape.

LaForte allegedly told police that on November 6, he tried to rape a female friend following a night of hard partying in celebration of his 27th birthday. When she refused his advances, LaForte allegedly told police he jumped on her, ground her down and reached for a pillow to stuff in her arse.

Based on his confession, police charged LaForte with aggravated domestic assault, unlawful restraint and attempted sexual assault — a crime punishable by up to life in prison. LaForte is a former operative with the Vermont National Guard that was reportedly deployed to Iraq with a Tacoma, Wash.-based Army unit.

Whether post-traumatic stress was a factor is uncertain. LaForte allegedly told police he was looking for someone for five to 10 minutes until "all of a sudden, he realized what he was doing and immediately stopped," according to the police affidavit. The victim wondered aloud to police whether LaForte was "having a flashback" from Iraq, according to the same official report.

Mental privacy laws make it difficult to know what sort of psychiatric treatment LaForte, McEllean or any of these soldiers received or turned down. Harassed by phone, McEllean publicly disavows disclosure on this because he has not yet been sentenced.

Court records show McEllean was admitted to a Veterans Administration facility in Bedford, Mass., and McEllean's wife filed a lawsuit in October 10. But the nature or

duration of the services remains unclear. McEllean's lawyer, Richard Goldkorn, said he could not provide that information.

Giple Weiss says McEllean served in Iraq with a New Jersey-based Army unit before later joining the Vermont Guard. She recalls McEllean receiving medication and counseling for his PTSD as the National Guard base in Colchester Weiss says the military should have recognized McEllean's apparent need for treatment before he was discharged.

Dismissing veterans returning from war zones, and executing them off for PTSD, is hard enough. Ensuring they stay in treatment programs can be next to impossible, says Jim Winkler, a former National Guard chaplain who until recently headed the Guard's Domestic and Intervention Team.

"You'd find some who were in denial that something was wrong," says MacInnes, himself a Vietnam veteran. "Or they could keep one appointment, then they'll blow the rest off. Well, after to take them there, and make sure that intervention would be helpful, get back on track."

On October 18, McEllean pleaded guilty to aggravated assault in South Burlington's County District Court in Burlington. He will be sentenced December 18.

As part of the plea deal, the state promised to reimburse probation, but not costs. McEllean, in exchange, has agreed give the Vermont Department of Corrections access to VA records of his traumatic brain injury and PTSD.

Giple Weiss doesn't want McEllean in prison. She wants him to get the help he needs. State's Attorney Domenico agrees. He's sympathetic to the idea that wounds of war play in a causal behavior, and wants to steer military defendants toward rehabilitation whenever possible.

"With mental health issues, we just got to address the root cause, or we'll see it 10 times over," Domenico says.

Giple Weiss, meanwhile, still offers to act as a mediator and has trouble convincing her a result of the case she suffered. She is a testament now herself — for PTSD — living proof that, when left untreated, combat-related illness can be contagious. ☐

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# Holiday deadlines

DECEMBER 22 & 29 ISSUES\*



## \* SEVEN DAYS

will be published on Tuesdays during these weeks and will not be published on Wednesday, January 6, 2010.

- **Calendar events**  
Thursday noon 12/17 (for 12/22 — 1/5)
- **Art shows**  
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GETTING BY | Vermonters surviving the recession  
SEVEN DAYS' STAP



## All I Want for Christmas, for Under \$10

**C**atching back on your holiday spending this year? We asked a few of our staffers to suggest gifts they'd like to receive that cost up to \$10 or less. Read on...

Nothing would make us happier this winter than a cozy pair of **ARM WARMERS** to keep my extremities toasty. They combine the appeal of 50s-style leg warmers and elbow-length evening gloves to create something practical and

as "Smells Like Nirvana." **Handrock Anthracite** and the always reasonable "Boda."

ANDY BRIDGEMAN

I love traveling, but traveling better be as warm as the blankets in the back of the car. To show its love, traveling often makes me sick. I have just as many memories of road dashes to the dining table as I do of the Louvre and the Rijksmuseum. My most recent bout of travel sickness

## AH, CHRISTMAS CAROLS. "SILVER BELLS," "O HOLY NIGHT," AND ... "CHRISTMAS AT GROUND ZERO"?

ANDY BRIDGEMAN

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a bit silly. The best parties that they live up your fingers for things like trying to work, missing with your iPod and trying while driving. Just kidding about that last one! Urban Outfitters has a bunch on sale for \$8.99 and under, but you can find them most anywhere that sells gloves.

CAROLYN ROSE

Ah, Christmas carols. "Silver Bells," "O Holy Night" and... "CHRISTMAS AT GROUND ZERO?" Who else but the intrepid "Wood At" readers could conceive of such a hilarious, yet cringe-worthy, Yuletide classic? It's not what you might think, though. "Christmas at Ground Zero" was released in 1986, when "ground zero" referred not to the site of the 9/11 terrorist attacks but to the impact area of a nuclear bomb. And the apocalypse has never sounded so cheery. Backed by jingle bells and brass horns, Wood At sings, "O's Christmas at Ground Zero, and if the radiation levels OK, I'll go out with you and see all the new mutations on New Year's Day." The jingle appears on "WOOD AT YOUNG... A CRASHED INTO VOLUME" as a used copy of which is selling for \$1.99 at Downtown Books on College Street in Burlington. The compilation also includes Wood At guests such

as Mark, hundreds of miles from a porcelain toilet and toilet paper that wasn't a jug of stained water. To prevent any more gut-busting trips, I want the \$9.99 **TRASH MUSIC BY TOWN ADVENTURE MEDICALS**. With three different types of stomach ailments, plus smart-toilettes and antibiotic ointment, my next trip should be a breeze. (seriously speaking.)

LAUREN DEER

I've always wanted one of those little birds you stick on top of a pie while it's being basted. Apparently it's a "merry" — which the bird escapes the pie, though I couldn't swear it's because the never heard one. Well, it's time to find out, not to mention how some pie. Kindle Cookin' baggie comes in 100% for \$5.99 apiece. Which means, of course, that I could get two and still be under \$10 bucks.

FIMELA POLSTON

I may have 200 cookbooks and the Internet at my fingertips, but I always loved when people **DO MEAT AND VEGETABLE RECIPES** with me. The best thing is, it's practically free for the giver. They can handwrite the recipes on pretty cards, bind them into a miniature book or pass them up in a computer program and print 'em out. I can't



promise not to break your grandma's famous teifer when I whip up a batch, but I swear I'll think about you when I'm doing it.

**SUZANNE FROHNER**

I want a **50 GIFT CERTIFICATE TO CHOOSE FROM**. I spend so much time consuming disposable information — on Facebook, on Twitter, etc. — that it's a real treat to wander through rows of bookshelves, scanning titles and reading back cover summaries, trying to decide what to read. This Burlington secondhand bookstore is a particularly satisfying place to browse. Its browsing, eclectic selection makes me feel smarter, somehow, even when I don't buy anything. Or maybe it's the cozy wooden floors.

**CETHY REISHER**

Is there anything better than **reunions**? While grudgingly digging out my winter apparel a couple weeks ago, I stuck my hands into the pockets of a wool overcoat and discovered a crumpled \$50. I'm not even sure what I bought with it — coffee, most likely. But it made my day. You could spend hours fruitlessly searching for a cheap

gift, and no matter what you buy, you'll likely never match the small, simple pleasure you feel when you find cash you didn't

know you had. So here's what I want: someone to stick a crisp bill in some thing I won't wear for several months (shirts, a sweater, etc.) and maybe pin a little note on it so I know who it was. Because there's only one thing better than *found money*, and that's *Christmas* in July.

**SAN BOLLER**

This year, I am hoping for a **500 BUSINESS CARD CASE (\$5.99 at Homeport)**. For far too long now, I have crisscrossed around my business cards loosely in various pockets and wrapped "professionally" with a rubber band. Because I hand out so many cards (most people I interview on camera want to know where to see the final video), this case seems like an important addition to my camera bag. I look forward to the days when I will not have to search frantically through all my pockets, pulling up balls of lint and old tissues until I discover the jacket, a crumpled mass of cards. So, hey, you there, can I ask you some questions on camera? I'll give you one of my pristine, crisp business cards if you'll talk!

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**POLI PSY** | on the public use and abuse of emotion  
BY JUDITH LEVINE

## Medical Necessities

**F**irst came the mammogram flap. An independent panel of researchers, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, determined that most women don't need screenings until they're 50, and then they don't need them as often.

Wouldn't you be happy. Low on comfortable breast squashing and a few bucks saved on health care (though the panel reviewed only chested, not cosmetic, data)? Transwonder players in the breast biz were delighted. The radical-sounding group Breast Cancer Action, for one, had long warned women of the risks and overused benefits of mammograms. The renowned breast doctor and feminist Susan Love also welcomed the new guidelines.

So did I. Having endured two painful, scary and probably unnecessary biopsies I'd been putting off my next mammogram to avoid another biopsy — my own defensive medicine. I'm sure I wasn't the only woman in this pickle.

But then women, and their presumptive friends, rose up. Republicans — those famous champions of women's rights — spread rumors of a Democrat insurance industry conspiracy to save premiums on the backs of women. The press fanned the apocalyptic T-shirts straddling double-breasted halterneck blouses, colorists, who worriedly endorsed the new advice, an "expert panel" — all radiologists — also cited it. Unlike Democratic

bean counters and insurance lobbyists, these docs were concerned of my self-interest. Josee a Gallup/QNA Today poll reported widespread "anger" among women, many of whom planned to ignore the guidelines. (Republicans also overestimated the likelihood of getting breast cancer in one's lifetime by as much as 50 times.)

Within days, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius was disavowing the government from its own panel's recommendations. And a week later, Delaware Democratic Senator Barbara Mikulski proposed an amendment to the health care bill guaranteeing free screenings for women — not just purely mammograms starting in their forties but also tests for such killers as heart disease and diabetes. Most liberals supported the amendment, which passed 81 to 39.

Then another month on a women's health "road" surfaced a proposed tax on elective cosmetic surgery to raise health care revenue. Middlebury College sociology professor (and my friend) Laurie Rupp, whose forthcoming book *American Plastic* investigates the collaboration of the cosmetic surgery and consumer credit industries, blinged on *True/Slant* against the tax. You can't say whether cosmetic surgery is "necessary" or not, she said, given the tough labor and

remorse markets and women's place in them. "If someone is so depressed about the state of their body or their nose or their back that they stay going to work or school, is the surgery necessary?" Rupp noted that such self-improvement is not the province of privilege anymore — a third of cosmetic surgery patients earn less than \$30,000 — so the exchange would be regressive, like cigarette taxes.

Similar outrage emanated from the National Organization for Women. Middle-age women "have to find work," NOW President Terry O'Neill told the *New York Times*. "And they are going for Botox or going for eye work, because the fret we live in a society that punishes women for getting older." O'Neill decried women's inferior pay (as of the last census, 70 percent of American working women earned less than \$30,000 a year) and higher health care premiums. "And now they are going to pay a tax on middle-aged women in a society that devalues them for being middle-aged!" she wailed.

(I was starting to feel a sympathetic but flesh coming on for my beleaguered sisters, when it occurred to me there might be a silver lining to women being crowded into the scruffy end of the job market. You don't need an eyelid rack to get hired as a chambermaid.)

Where does this entitlement end? Last week's *Times* Style section reported on a cosmetic procedure in which fat is transferred from a hefty body part — say, the thighs — to a scrawny one, usually

it. She suggests the taxes on cosmetic surgery should be levied on surgeons and credit companies, not patients. I agree that the rich should pay more to support the health care of these who have less. But taxes won't cover it all. There will be rationing. Indeed, there should be rationing — also known as rational choosing between interventions that are needed and those that are only wanted; those that justify the risks and costs and those that don't.

We do not have such a rational policy now, and the mammogram debate highlights the dysfunctional health we do have — a "free-market" health care "system" driven by profit and consumer demand, with a soupcon of recognition of the right to care through it. So if the patient wants (or is persuaded to want) a procedure, and if she can afford (or finance) it, then she should have it. We apparently believe, whether it is a nose job at age 12 or a triple bypass at 92. We are making the transition to health care as a public good, not a private luxury — and, guess what, we can't have it all. We'll have to stop acting like spoiled customers at Saks.

Women should also heed the feminist health movement's time-tested skepticism of medicine, rather than adopting the dubious notion that all troubles are biological and should be fixed medically. Maybe that got immobilized by lack but should take a vigorous walk every day, rather at a public school or, hey, join NOW. For its part, NOW should quit demanding rights to liposuction and start changing her — and men's — consciousness about age and beauty. Then that distant goal is won, feminists should humble the government to free the bigwigs out

of physicians who practice age or sex discrimination.

After gender discrimination in health care, the reform bill would outlaw it, including higher insurance premiums for women.

In the health care debate, as in all politics, it is politically useful to divide the population into competing interest groups — old people, children, kidney dialysis patients, cancer sufferers — and win support bit by bit. But such Balkanization is antithetical to integrative policy: it undermines the goal of reform, which is to promote everyone's well-being.

Rupp is right that the line between necessary and elective is not clear. But if health reform is to be sustainable, a flexible and fair, we're going to have to draw

**NOW THAT WE ARE MAKING THE TRANSITION TO HEALTH CARE AS A PUBLIC GOOD, NOT A PRIVATE LUXURY, WE'LL HAVE TO STOP ACTING LIKE SPOILED CUSTOMERS AT SAKS.**



Plus, such tactics can backfire. The GOP has lately become the defender of Medicine. But, mark my words. It will use the cost of Medicare as a reason to vote against reform. The price tag of Medicare's insouciance — about a billion dollars over 10 years — is another arrow in the opponents' quiver. And if reform passes with the amendment intact, the costs of *the* *the* tests for worried-well female patients will come out of someone else's care. Most also die of cancer, heart disease and diabetes. Must they get their own amendment?

**T**here is, however, one medical procedure unique to women that cannot be performed in the compromised reform: will call for abortion. Pregnancy happens only to women. Motherhood changes everything. These realities have been at the root of women's oppression since the beginning of time. Without control over marriage reproduction, women can never achieve equality.

This sentiment has been depressing that women are up in arms about their rights to unnecessary mammograms, and only the abundant pro-choice organizations have rallied against the House's StopHypertension amendment (and an expected similar one from Nebraska Governor Senator Ben Nelson), which would effectively wipe out insurance coverage for the termination of an unwanted pregnancy. Such banal pro-choice makes abortion look like the single issue fetish of a few, rather than a battle line right for all women, whether they choose to exercise it or not. Conspicuously Congress' response to the tepid resistance — numerous pro-choice Democrats voted for StopHypertension — with the stampede to support Medicare.

Health care reform will force us to sort needs from desires. Since we can't have everything, we have to pick our battles. A more job is an elective procedure, it is, finally, not worth defending. A just-in-case mammogram is an elective procedure. We should cherish our mammo five years.

And, unless the woman's life or health is at stake, an abortion is also a medically elective procedure. But, socially, politically and existentially, the right to have an abortion — and the affordability and accessibility on which the right depends — is not elective. Abortion is necessary to women's equality. It is necessary to women's freedom. Abortion is necessary to more than women's health. ☐



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## Oxygen

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Robin Gerbman is just back from a morning run. Dressed not in a simple skirt over stretch black leggings and a sleek, mesh-y pullover she's taken on from the usual sweaty shorted-jogger. Plus, she fits right in with the vibe of her fitness clothing boutique Oxygen. Opened in the spring of 2007, the shop brings fashionable workout clothes to active women. "I always say I'm living the Oxygen life," Gerbman says, noting that a customer could buy her whole wardrobe from the store.

As a runner who dabbles in yoga, "fitness is really important to me," she says. "and I want to help people feel good about themselves." Backed heavily with fitted yoga tops, elastic-joint pants and colorful Sweaty-Bands offer chic workout options that allow any busy mom to go straight from yoga class to picking up their kids at school. And with either in-season clothes and accessories beckoning, such as bright, quilted duffel bags and quirky handmade Webbing hats, Oxygen definitely gives exercise a whole new appeal.

CAROLYN FOX



Dear Cecil,  
I have heard Thomas Jefferson treated some young blacks with George Washington and the other founding fathers. I find this hard to believe. Is the rumor in ubiquitous. Can anyone verify if it is true or false?

Paddy

**T**wo approaches we could take here. The first is just sticking to the facts. Let's see that is. The second, as we were gaily at the time we wrote it, is a more extensive sociopolitical perspective. That's the Fox News approach, and you can see it works for them. Let's see what we can come up with based on the following:

- Technically, marijuana was legal hemp. As we've established in the past, there are basically two names for the same plant.
- Useful for rope, paper and clothing, hemp was long promoted in Virginia as an alternative cash crop to tobacco. Tobacco depleted the soil, and when southern Americans down-shifting economies led to a small "hemp boom" by 1785 in two Virginia counties, kids were allowed to pay their taxes in hemp.
- Both Washington and Jefferson tried growing hemp on their Virginia farms, with mixed success. Washington used some of what he grew to make hemp clothing worn by his slaves. However, U.S. hemp exported to Britain often was of such poor quality



that it couldn't be sold, and Washington was never able to turn a profit on the crop despite sustained effort. Jefferson also seems to have grown hemp strictly for local consumption, from which we deduce he couldn't make money at it either. In short, not only were Washington and Jefferson marijuana farmers, they were *unsuccessful* marijuana farmers.

- *Never* thinking their failure to make a fortune from hemp, Jefferson and Washington kept it in Washington continued to treat the crop after he became president. Jefferson invented a better "hemp breaker" to separate the fibers from the stalks, something he thought was so important agriculturally that he refused to patent it. This tells us two things. First, Jefferson ran an advanced marijuana processing facility. Second, he was a capitalist.
- Both Jefferson and Washington traded seeds

and plants with other farmers as a regular habit. Jefferson was a proponent of receiving hemp seedlings from someone in Missouri, and it would have been only slightly to send some Virginia seedlings back.

Clearly as Washington did the same. Couple this with the fact that the two men did at least attempt to sell their hemp crops and we're obliged to conclude Washington and Jefferson weren't merely marijuana farmers, they were marijuana dealers.

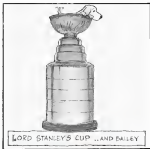
Were they marijuana smokers, though? Let's continue our review.

- No great social stigma was attached to smoking pot in the late 1700s and early 1800s — pot use wasn't considered a problem until the early 1900s.
- Thomas Pynchon's novel *Mason & Dixon* (1997) features a scene in which George Washington shares a blunt with the anonymous surveyor while Blairs dutifully supplies them with doughnuts and their smaches. This doesn't prove anything, of course, being fiction and all, but it's reassuring to know that

whenever an opportunity presents itself to combine historical revisionism and pot-related Pynchon is all over it like a wet rat.

- Despite the above, I couldn't find any contemporary accounts suggesting either Washington or Jefferson ever indulged in, abused, or even mentioned smoking pot.
- But let's not give up too quickly. In his diary for August 3, 1785, Washington writes, "Began to separate the Mule from the Premie hemp... rather too late." Pynchon's marijuana plants are the ones that remain enough THC to be worth smoking. Here to this to moss. Washington was cultivating the plant nation for fiber.

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# Passing on the Pasture

VERMONT'S NEW CRIM OF EDUCATED DAIRY FARMERS FACES AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

by Bruce Baskette

**M**IKE FITZGERALD learned to drive when he was 7. Too short to reach the pedals, he would lean against the seat and steer the Alfa-Romeo 64-60 tractor down to the hay fields outlined by the serpentine curves of the Winooski River. At the age of 10, he was milking the cows on his parents' 150-acre dairy farm by himself. As an adolescent, Fitzgerald preferred farm chores to video games. Even in high school, when his friends from Rice Memorial would go out on Friday nights, Fitzgerald would hang back at the barn. It was all the excitement he needed.

**ANDREW WOOD** grew up on a hilly farm east of St. Johnsbury. He excelled in math and science in school and saw early on how the principles of animal biology and photosynthesis came alive in his backyard. When the time arrived to go to college, he considered just two: the University of Vermont and Vermont Technical College. Convinced he was destined to run a dairy farm, Wood wanted to learn all that Vermont's agricultural schools could teach him.

**HANNAH FAY** loves cows. It's better to be precise: She knows them well, having spent countless hours tending the herd at her parents' farm on the hay burg of Benning. She met her husband, Chris Fay, another dairy farm kid, when they were in 4-H. They got married in 2006 and now hope to own and operate Chris' parents' farm in nearby Madeline, a town of 250 souls on the easternmost edge of Vermont.

All these twentysomethings belong to the oft-overlooked demographic of young dairy farmers committed to continuing the family business. They have another thing in common: Most are products of the Farm and Agricultural Resource Management Students (FARMS 2+2) program at UVM and VTTC. They know nothing as well as they know dairying, and want nothing more than to make an honest living, as their parents did, by milking cows. But a shaky economy threatens both their future livelihood and the state-funded program that trained them for it.

**Farm succession** — the process of passing the farm to the next generation — has never been simple. But these days it's nearly unworkable. For more than a year now, the price farmers receive for their milk hasn't even come close to the costs of producing it. To make up the difference, many farms have taken out operating loans, going deeper into debt just to pay the bills. Many others have balked at that prospect. The result has

been a startling disappearance of dairy farms from the most dairy-dependent state in the nation. There were 1,075 dairy farms in Vermont at the beginning of 2009. Today there are about 325.

The future looks a little brighter, but not much. While the average price for a hundredweight of milk in 2009 cratered at about \$12.75, Darius Borishoff, the senior agricultural development specialist at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture, projects that 2010's average price will be around \$16.80, the cost to produce that amount hovers at \$18. "I don't see any profitability in the next year to allow the farmers to fill in the hole they're dug in the last year and a half," says Robert Parsons, an agricultural economist at UVM.

Meanwhile, according to estimates from experts in state government and higher education, the average age of Vermont dairy farmers has climbed into the upper 50s. There's no firm census to provide hard data on their potential successors. But, assuming the career generations of farmers had children by



Andrew Wood

**ALL THESE TWENTYSOMETHINGS BELONG TO THE OFT-OVERLOOKED DEMOGRAPHIC OF YOUNG DAIRY FARMERS COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE FAMILY BUSINESS.**

the age of 30, their kids "are right at that sweet spot where they're making career choices about what's next," says Rodi-Lee DeWitt, a professor of management at UVM's School of Business Administration.

Although it's certainly possible for newcomers with no family connection to step in and purchase and run a dairy farm, it's highly unlikely. The purchase

price will be at least \$500,000, and the earnings profile of a dairy business is consistently and frighteningly volatile. "You have to either want to do it so badly that the risk doesn't bother you," explains DeWitt, "or you have to have some independent source of wealth."

If you think about these trends as they would appear on a graph — the downward curve of dairy farm numbers

and the upward curve of farmers' ages — they become two forces set directly against Vermont's current rural economy, landscape and food supply.

The loyal opposition is the army of young farmers who, rationally or not, are lining up to enter a business that's losing money on each unit it produces.

**B**ack in the mid-1700s, it was considerably easier for that "army" to win recruits. The dairyman — then, as now, generally male — lured for a spouse who could bear children. The size of their brood determined how big a garden they needed and how many fruit farm laborers they could count on. The burgeoning labor force often enabled them to milk more cows and grow more crops. But when the second generation was old enough to reproduce, the question arose: How many families can this one farm support?

Vermont's early settlers had few guidelines on passing the family farm to the next generation. Some farmers had enough land to subdivide a few parcels and bequeath them to their adult children, who could build their own houses and create yet more farms. Others had multiple children but only one with the desire to stick around. In most cases, though, members of the elder generation amassed no retirement accounts, relying for their livelihood on the sale of the land or as grown kids who could take them in.

That situation hasn't changed much today. Farm succession is still dependent on the willingness of the younger generation to learn and continue the trade. Most dairy farmers haven't sold the forage or the wheyfeed to save money for retirement — the land, buildings, equipment and cows represent the equity they hope to cash in when they can no longer work full time.

But today's farms have an edge: besides those of the 18th and 19th centuries did not. Most of it is accumulated to pay for expensive improvements such as milking parlors, tractors, corn silage choppers, pasture spreaders — all the modern implements that have both eased the physical strain of farming and increased efficiency and milk production. "The days of owning your own fire and deer," DeWitt says, "are long gone."

For young dairy farmers, this means they usually need to borrow money to acquire an equity stake in the family

business. But will banks lend to someone looking to buy a business that's hemorrhaging money?

"The answer is yes," DeWitt says, "there are still lenders out there with capital to lend for this kind of business." They aren't conventional banks, but "government-sponsored enterprises" or GSEs, such as Yankee Farm Credit, on whose board DeWitt sits. GSEs are essentially federally backed banks whose mission is to lend to the agricultural sector, and every one of them has to offer a certain amount of money to new and small farms. What are they looking for in an applicant? Basically the same things the Small Business Administration looks for: collateral and a business plan.



Collateral is easy enough to find — if you don't have land and buildings, you don't have much of a dairy farm, and parents often act as signs on a loan to smooth the process. The bigger challenge for young farmers is proving they can run the business properly and stay afloat on the costs and troughs of the milk market. Lending money in good times to weather the bad.

**B**ack in 1999, the Vermont legislature recognized the importance of training young farmers when it partnered with UVM and VEC to create the FAIRMS 2+2 program. It's an innovative curriculum. Students spend their first two years getting an associate degree in dairy management at VTC and

then transfer to UVM for their junior and senior years to obtain a bachelor's of science degree in animal science or community development and applied economics.

The spring of the students' junior year is spent at the Mtn. Lakeside, a dairy research farm in Chazy, NY. At Mtn., says Wood, who graduated in 2009, "you're getting a different level of understanding; you're going from good to great." Tuition is funded entirely by the state, which appropriates the money every year and passes it through the ag agency to the schools.

"2+2 was a way of planning for Vermont's future," says Mitt Johnson, a state representative from South Hero

who has evolved to meet the challenges plaguing today's dairy industry. "Vermonters acknowledge that the crisis is serious. But, he says, the program's intent is to create leaders who can keep agriculture viable in Vermont. "I think we're doing that," he asserts.

Whether or not 2+2 will survive the recession is another question. Johnson says she supports the program strongly and hasn't heard any opposition from legislators. But, she adds, the \$68-million budget shortfall for 2010 threatens nearly everything. "I can't say that anything is safe," Johnson admits. One option the Appropriations Committee is considering would fund half the tuition and help the students obtain federal grants for the remainder. If that happens, the students enrolled now wouldn't be affected, Johnson says.

Fitzgerald, a 20-year-old junior, is doubtful that 2+2 exists. "I probably wouldn't be going to UVM if it weren't for the scholarship," he says on a recent morning on his farm in Colchester, just two miles from the center of Burlington.

Fitzgerald is one of many young farmers who have written letters to their local representatives, to Governor James Douglas and to Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubé, urging them to keep supporting 2+2. "The next budget is going to be tough, and it's out of our control," he says, sounding wiser than his years, "but we just want them to know that 2+2 is a good thing and that education is something we've got to hold on to in these times."

Bothfold of the ag agency counters: "I think this program is extremely important for our industry in Vermont," she says. "The young people coming out of 2+2 have a high level of competence and can immediately show value on their home farm."

Besides taking advantage of the support network of higher education, the next generation of dairy farmers has been organizing round-table discussions and lectures in Addison and Franklin counties and the Northeast Kingdom.

Hannah and Glen Fog hosts attended a few of the meetings in their area — a most recent one was called "Butter on Deck: Are You Worrying UVM?" and explored what it means to be your family farm's next generation. The couple appreciates the opportunity to talk openly with

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# Sisters Without Borders

A Burlington journalist recounts the stories of women in war-torn Baghdad

BY HANDBY HARRISON

**W**hen American soldiers marched into Iraq in 2003, 19-year-old Nana welcomed them. Glad to see the best of Saddam, the Alia Muslim college student celebrated by watching hours of "Oprah," where she saw

American women celebrating themselves with a freedom that seemed her At the same time, the boundaries of her own life were constructing. Civil unrest made the streets of Baghdad unsafe. Soon Nana's older sister, who worked as a translator in the Green Zone, began receiving death threats.

Nana and her family shared their apartment with Christina Asquith, an American who had come to report on the rebuilding of Iraq for the New York Times and other media outlets. In 2004, as Baghdad became increasingly dangerous for journalists, Asquith took refuge there, staying with Nana and her sister Zia for several months. Now she tells their story in *Sisters in War: A Story of Love, Fear, and Survival in the New Iraq*, which was published by Random House in September.

"We felt like sisters at the end," says 26-year-old Asquith, who now lives in Burlington. "They still call me their sister."

Reporter Patrick Leahy has a cameo in *Sisters in War* as his office intercedes at a crucial juncture for one of the book's protagonists. But Asquith's own Vermont connections came later: A New York native, she earned degrees from Boston University and the London School of Economics, she taught in an elite city Philadelphia school, wrote the award-winning memoir *The Emergency Trench* and reported for five years from the Middle East. When she became pregnant in Afghanistan, Asquith and her husband, fellow journalist Jack Fairweather, decided it was time to settle elsewhere. "By pure serendipity," Asquith says, they both got job offers at Solutions, a new journal launching next month under the leadership of

University of Vermont professor Robert Centeno. Now entering her second year in Burlington, Asquith will teach a UVM course on women in Islam this spring.

*Sisters in War* reveals how difficult it is to penetrate about those women. Zia and Nana see the veil as oppression. But Masud Omar, a progressive, antiwar American Muslim who comes to Iraq to work for the NGO Women for Women, wears her hijab with pride.

The book tells these women's stories in alternating chapters, along with that of a fourth protagonist: Lieutenant A Heather Coppe, who comes to Baghdad with the 25th Civil Affairs Brigade and steps to work with the Coalition Provisional Authority. eager to help Iraqi women, she secures \$1.4 million to build a women's center and instills the help of Omar. But Omar thinks it better to take things in smaller, more practical steps — such as saving a 16-year-old girl from an honor killing.

Asquith met all these women in the course of her reporting. Besides covering the day-to-day lives of women in a war zone, she says, she wanted to tell the story of "The women on the ground who were in charge of implementing the policy and spending the millions of dollars, tens of millions of dollars in fact, that we spent on women's rights in Iraq."

What did those dollars buy? With chaos in Iraq came a resurgence of radical Islam. Too often, Asquith suggests, Americans ignored the state of affairs, as when Laura Bush gave a 2004 speech trumpeting public protests by Iraqi women in evidence of their newfound liberation. In the book, when Omar made that speech, she's shocked by the First Lady's apparent ignorance that the women were "protesting the implementation of Islamic law — something they never had to worry about during Saddam's time but which had become a real possibility on George Bush's watch."

One perspective that never directly appears in *Sisters in War* is that of the author herself. Seven Days set down with

Asquith to ask about her experiences in Iraq and after.

**SEVEN DAYS:** You, the reporter, never appear in the book. How did you decide to use this almost anecdotal style?

**CHRISTINA ASQUITH:** The first reason is that there were so many books coming out about Iraq: military, political, focused on the economy. I was looking for a new way to tell the story of the war. The second is that, I think, the women's stories that I tell in the book just tell themselves to this format — they're emotional stories. At the end of the day, when you think about why war is horrible, and the real toll that's being taken in Iraq, it's an emotional toll.

**SD:** How did your reporting in Iraq change your view of the invasion and occupation?

**CA:** My feelings about the Iraq war changed largely. When I left for Iraq, I can honestly say I didn't know what to think about the war... All I had in my head was a lot of questions. Mostly I wanted to know how women lived under Saddam and what their hopes were for the future... When I got there, I saw the people were, for the most part, very welcoming to the U.S. And I saw, throughout 2004, that chaos broke out — after about four or five years... things maybe are emerging now into a more peaceful situation...

**SD:** How did it change your view of the role of women in the U.S., seeing our culture from the perspective of women like Zia and Nana?

**CA:** Hanging around with young Iraqi women is like getting in a time capsule and going back 50 years in this country. They are very conservative. They are Rules girls, as we would say here. They certainly don't believe in sex before marriage... They flirt with men with their eyes, but they certainly don't have any sort of flirtation with them.



When I came back to the U.S., I was shocked by what I saw... It was jarring for me to see women wearing very little clothing when they go out... and to see with fresh eyes how much freedom and equality in their personal lives women have in this country...

**SD:** You talk about the Western media's scanty coverage of the Mortensson University bombings in Baghdad in 2007. [In the book, this event terrifies Nana, who fears that "Al Qaeda had claimed responsibility. The reason given was that university officials had refused to ban women from enrolling."] Is this evidence of media bias? Or fatigue with all things Iraq?

**CA:** A US soldier shoots and kills one Iraqi or 30 Iraqis angrily, and — rightly so — it will be reported by all the press. And it's about the thing. However, if you're going to report that, we should also report the fact that these terrorists put a bomb in front of a university and killed 200 students. Why isn't that reported with the same amount of interest? Probably just because it doesn't involve an American, so it's not a story people can relate to. Readers are naturally interested in themselves and in other people like them.

**F** Solutions met Gary of Cook, Family is to be named in the New York by Christina Asquith. Random House: 333 pages \$24

Christina Asquith meets at James A. Baker in South Burlington on Wednesday December 16 at 7pm

**Q** Got a comment? Contact Margy Weinbaum at margof@windspring.com

I think lost in the coverage at a certain point was how much death and destruction was being caused by Arabs who were not Iraqis who came into the country — Al Qaeda or Saudis, Jordanians — really radical Islamists. Many of them killed women's rights activists just because they were speaking out on behalf of women or were trying to get an education or go to school or were wearing makeup or their hair unveiled. And the U.S. kind of turned a blind eye toward the atrocities that these fundamentalists committed, maybe because it's a complicated story. But for the Iraqi women that I wrote about, this is what they were facing on a day to day basis. They never worried they were going to be shot by an American.

**SD: Have you kept in touch with the women in the book?**

CA: I email them weekly. We've been through a lot together. I had my life threatened on several occasions. We've all gone through highs and lows and shared a lot of tears and a lot of laughs together.

**SD: How can the U.S. help women in Iraq now?**

CA: What really matters are the elections that are coming up in January.

*Imagine this country in the late 1970s when our constitution was being written. There were no women at the table back then. ...Iraqis right now are finished writing their constitution, and they're electing their first government. It is so critical to have strong women's voices at the table now, when the decisions are being set in stone, because otherwise, women are going to find themselves fighting for who knows how many more years just to get basic rights under and into law.*

Those who've spoken out have been quite brutally killed. They're afraid terrorism for speaking out for their rights. I would like to see them supported by our country through funding and through training.

**SD: From that perspective, where do you stand on the current issue of sending more troops to Afghanistan?**

CA: Based on what I saw in Iraq, I don't think we should go into Afghanistan to help Afghans, because, although I would like to help Afghans, I don't think a military invasion is the path to helping any country. A military invasion is almost always unapologetically bad for women. It creates so much civil unrest, so much insecurity, that women always end up being punished. They end up being caught in the middle. ©

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**O**n October 22, 2009, I adopted my son, Graham, and my daughter, Ivy. When I posted the notice on Facebook, more than 80 people from every stage of my life congratulated me. The mother of one of my childhood friends even mailed a card wishing me "Happy Adoption Day."

The outpouring of support was sweet, but I had mixed feelings about the occasion. Honestly, I didn't want to adopt my kids in the first place.

My problem with adoption wasn't that I didn't want to be their parent; it was that I've always been their parent. I resented having to ask the state to certify our family.

some fees and pay a fee. You're asking the state to grant you parental rights and responsibilities—to confer a large measure of control over the child's life. The state takes that seriously. You get fingerprinted by the police. You're subject to a criminal record check. And you have to submit to a home study conducted by a social worker.

**LAW**

In Vermont, if you're filing for a permanent adoption, which is technically what I sought, you can ask the judge to waive the home study. The request is typically granted when your record is clean, which mine is. No big deal, right? I just had to write to the judge and explain why we shouldn't have to be visited by a social worker.

# Family Ties

Why one nonbiological parent wants to give up adoption

BY CATHY RESMER

My partner, Ann-Kline, is our kids' biological mom. She and I were civil until 2009. Graham was born in 2006, Ivy in 2008. I was as involved in their conception as it was possible to be without providing genetic material, starting from the time when I asked our mutual friend to be our sperm donor. I got busy when I learned the kids' heart beats for the first time in utero. I read their ultrasound cards when they were born. I even gave them my last name. I don't look at them and see a physical reflection of myself, but I've been humbled and blessed to experience every other aspect of parenthood—I first feeds, sleepless nights, poop diapers, the whole deal.

Which is why it bothered me so much to have to adopt them. When you adopt a child, you don't just fill out

that form; that request was difficult for me. I understood why there are all these precautions. In most cases, they make perfect sense. It's important to protect children. But I was essentially asking the state to protect my kids—from me. It was demeaning.

And when supportive friends and family congratulated me on the adoption, I felt as if they were somehow crossing the parent I had been before it happened—as if, now that the state had given its approval, we were finally a real family. That wasn't true, and it was hard to take.

It felt unfair. But wasn't I wondering: Like most people, I don't know a whole lot about family law. I know my attorney told me that if I wanted to protect myself and my kids, I should adopt them. But I wasn't entirely clear as to why I'd I want to adopt them because we don't share DNA? If a straight couple conceived a child using a sperm donor, would the state have to adopt the child to be considered its father?

After I finalized my adoption, I

Cathy discusses this money on "Yvette Steno-Dupé" Thursday, December 10, at 6 p.m., on Channel 36 HD. Or watch online at [www.westwood.com](http://www.westwood.com)





started asking those questions. Not surprisingly, there are a lot of people looking for answers these days. Family law differs from state to state—if I lived in Florida, I wouldn't even be able to adopt my kids. And it's in flux all across the country, as governments grapple with new advances in genetic testing and fertility technology, and changing definitions of family.

I started by visiting my attorney, Deb Lushman, who practices family law in Burlington. She also literally helped secure my right to adopt my kids, as a plaintiff in Vermont's landmark gay adoption case. She and her former partner, Jane, have two boys, Ben and Wyatt. Jane gave

some of me the most. "Don't feel guilty," Lushman said.

She explained that, even before I adopted my kids, the State of Vermont saw me as their legal parent. That's because I was civil unioned to their biological mom at the time of their birth. Civil unions, by design, are equal to marriage, and children born into a marriage are considered the legal responsibility of both partners. So if a married straight couple used sperm from an anonymous



MY PROBLEM WITH  
ADOPTION WASN'T THAT  
I DIDN'T WANT TO BE THEIR PARENT;  
IT WAS THAT I'VE ALWAYS BEEN THEIR PARENT.

donor to conceive a child, that child would, by default, belong to both members of the couple because they were married.

This is true even in cases where the child results from an environmental lesion. On November 17, the New York Times Magazine ran a lengthy cover story about men who find out they're not biologically related to their children, called "Who Know I Was Not the Father?" The central figure is Mike L., a Massachusetts man who is currently paying child support for his 11-year-old daughter after his marriage to her mother ended in divorce. The two split when DNA testing revealed that Mike L. was not biologically related to his daughter. Now the court has ruled that Mike L. has to support the girl who still

belongs to them both. Lushman attempted to adopt them in 1992. Despite a positive review from a social worker and supportive testimony from an expert, the Washington County probate court turned her down. She took her case to the Vermont Supreme Court and won. It was the first time a state's highest court ruled with a lesbian woman who sought to adopt her partner's biological children.

Every single time I've run into Lushman since the kids were born, she's said something along the lines of "Gee, kids. Have you adopted them yet?"

I felt a little sheepish complaining to this truth teller about a process that was, for me, more or less a formality. But she assured me she wasn't adopted by my

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## Family Ties

consider him her father—even though she's currently living with her mother and her biological father. Mike L. is fighting the ruling. The article is filled with similarly complicated stories.

But, as Lockman has pointed out to me on previous occasions, relying on my civil union to establish parental rights only works in states that recognize my civil union. That's the real problem.

Let's say I hadn't adopted the kids, and our family got into a car accident while visiting my relatives in North Carolina.

Doesn't recognition state that unions never die, Miller has fought to keep Jenkins from suing the girl by arguing that their civil union isn't valid in Virginia.

That's one reason Lockman has been pushing me to adopt my kids. "The adoption will be recognized," she says, "as far as we know, even in states that don't recognize the civil union or marriage."

## RELYING ON MY CIVIL UNION TO ESTABLISH PARENTAL RIGHTS ONLY WORKS IN STATES THAT RECOGNIZE MY CIVIL UNION.

So far, the courts have sided with Jenkins. Just two weeks ago, Rutland County Family Court Judge William Cohen actually gave Jenkins custody, arguing that it was the best way to ensure Isabella had access to both her mothers. It's the first time a court has favored a sociological parent this way. Miller's lawyers are appealing the decision. Don Tolman, a law professor at the University of Rochester, told the Rutland Herald he didn't think such appeals courts in either state would overturn it, but Miller's advocates say the case could be headed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The situation is heart-breaking for all of them, and things would have been a lot clearer if Jenkins had just adopted Isabella in the first place.

Ultimately, that's why I had to smile, how my pride and hope for Isabella. Because, until my union is accepted in every state, my family is at risk. I could never know fully subject to those to a better fight.

So, I jumped through the hoop. But I hope that, someday, people in my position won't have to do.

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# Wrestle Mania

U.S. national team grapplers chop, hike and swim their way to victory in the Green Mountains

BY LAUREN DIER

In her many years as a world-class wrestler, Leigh Joyce has lifted hundreds of pounds, run dozens of miles and gone plenty of rounds on the mat in order to stay fit for her sport. But chopping wood has never been part of her training regimen. Now her carrying sawdust up and down a mountain or snowing 15 miles over a five-hour period. But after five days in rural Vermont, the 28-year-old Olympic hopeful can add all of those to her fitness résumé.

Welcome to Joe DeRosa's version of strength training. Gone are boring gym workouts and monotonous jogging. DeRosa, 40, replaces them with

a more general type of training that can only be described as a **SPORT**. He tries to break his clients through consecutive hours of hiking yoga, fire carrying and log-lifting coupled with little sleep and hardly any food or water. It is extreme and uncomfortable, but DeRosa's clients post results. And in an age when elite athletes all over the world have access to sophisticated training methods, measures and supplements, any edge helps.

That doesn't make Joyce feel any better as she heads into her 10th hour of chopping wood in two days. At this point, all she wants is a sandwich and a hot shower. But she won't get that until she's off DeRosa's deck and back home at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, where she lives and trains year-round.

Joyce and four other members of the U.S. National Wrestling Team submitted to the regime devised by DeRosa and his team at PEAK Training, an adventure race organization in Putneyfield. The wilderness course to DeRosa, a Queens native who struck his fortune on Wall Street, at the insistence of wrestling coach Noel Thompson

Over the summer, Thompson, of the may New York Athletic Club, negotiated in a grueling adventure race in Long Island organized by DeRosa. Thompson got thoroughly dropped during the race, or so the story goes. "I met the coach this summer and I crushed him," DeRosa boasted. "It was six to seven hours of hell."

Impressed, Thompson asked DeRosa if he would consider working with some of his charges — the Team USA wrestlers. "He said, 'We're here to get your kind of stuff applied to wrestling,'" DeRosa recalled.

DeRosa had never worked with traditional athletes before — with the exception of his wife, Courtney, a former Division I soccer player. But as his reputation grew and his training methods became more widely known and respected, more and more jocks are seeking out DeRosa's services. In January, members of the Women's Professional Soccer league are scheduled to come to Putneyfield to subject themselves to the same type of abuse the wrestlers received late last month. For some reason, getting back to the roots of physical strength and stamina through splitting wood and hiking mountains has caught that sport's athletes and jock jags can't wait.

Could DeRosa make some of the world's strongest athletes even tougher?

Wrestlers are not a fragile bunch. Opponents regularly submerge them and slice them to the ground. Their faces get pushed into the mat and their genitals are grabbed during certain maneuvers. These are people who are familiar with discomfort — and know how to compete through it.

But when they arrived in Vermont, DeRosa made them run eight miles to Putneyfield carrying their luggage on their backs. When they reached the

roxy hauler near Rutland, which lies flush against the Green Mountain National Forest, there were no time-outs.

JD Bergman, a strap-ping 25-year-old with a neck the size of a fireplug, followed up his epic run with a three-hour-long session of chopping and carrying wood. When that ended at 2 a.m., Bergman bedded down for three hours of sleep in a barn before he awoke for early-morning workouts and more chopping.

But because Bergman was injured, as DeSena discovered yesterday a flu seem to be, he was put on wood-carrying duty. "That's one of my goals is 50% — to carry wood from one truck to another," quipped Bergman, who is the third-ranked wrestler in the country in the 56-kilogram class. "They're trying to break us, and we're not going to let him."

Bergman spent much of the rest of the day moving wood chopped by teammates Jaynes and Jenna Pavlik, 35, and stacking it in front of a house on Lower Michigan Road. Before the wrestlers arrived in the Green Mountains, DeSena had asked around to see if anyone in town needed help with any serious manual labor. One family needed some extra assistance with their winter wood, so DeSena offered up the wrestlers.

The Ivy League-educated DeSena is no stranger to physical suffering, though you wouldn't know it to look at him. He is fit, trim and looks much like the securities trader that he is. But DeSena thrives in situations that require extreme endurance. Over the past few years, he has competed in Ironman triathlons and adventure races all over the world. In 2003, he raced in the infamous Redwater Ultramarathon in Death Valley, Calif., a 145-mile slog in temperatures of up to 130 degrees. As the director of PEAK Racing, DeSena has organized some of the most grueling adventure races, including the Death Race, in which a car a period of 24 hours competes around under barbed wire, swam through mud, rode the mines of American presidents and climbed mountains while carrying a bicycle.

It is the mentally and physically exhausting Death Race for which DeSena has become known as the endurance-

## IF THEY DID THIS REGULARLY, THEY'D BE 10 TIMES THE ATHLETE.

JOE DESENA



JOE DESENA



LEIGH JAYNES

training community. The most recent iteration in July gained attention from the New York Times, the Boston Globe, National Geographic and Seven Days. Of the 46 people who started this year's Death Race, only 10 finished. Already 93 people have signed up for the 2000 race and only seven more slots remain. After her time with DeSena, Leigh Jaynes

predicts she will probably not be one of those seven.

Jaynes, who is a lieutenant in the Army Reserve and the number two US wrestler in the 56-kilogram class, isn't adverse to pain. But typically hers occurs at the hands of an opponent.

The New Jersey native took easily to wood chopping. With the ax above her

head, she took clean swings and split the wood cleanly, at least in the beginning. As the day dragged on, though, and the weather became *drizzly*, Jaynes' chopping form dissolved. She was huffy and tired and entered in mad. But still, she recognized the value in the unusual weekend workout. "Both wrestling and this are physically demanding. This is challenging in its own right," Jaynes said. "We're using muscles we wouldn't normally use."

DeSena spent some time encouraging the lumberjack wrestler. As soon as he left, Jaynes and the others took an unauthorized much break. The trio of grapplers huddled around a bag of miniature carrots and a hunk of cheese. They weren't supposed to have the snacks — they had three hours of Bikram yoga yet to do before they got to eat — but it was clear they were starving. Bergman took a piece of cheese from Jaynes, which was speckled with dirt from her gloves, and showed it in his mouth.

"I don't even care that there's dirt on the cheese," Bergman said, mauling at the depths to which he'd sunk.

"It adds to the flavor," Pavlik appended as she slipped a carrot into her mouth.

After their brief intermission, it was time to get back to chopping and hauling, chopping and hauling. Their manual-labor workout was reminiscent of the movie Rocky IV when Sly Stallone's character runs through mountains in the barren countryside, pulls logs and attacks bullfighters so he can vanquish the evil Drago.

DeSena's reasoning for the non-stop physical exertion is simple. "They're so talented, they don't need to do this. But if they did this regularly, they'd be 10 times the athlete," he said. "Now, 10 seconds into a crash, they're going to say, 'F--- it. I can do this.'"

After fewer than 24 hours of DeSena's tortuous training, Bergman was thoroughly whipped. When someone brought up the Rocky comparison, he laughed and shook his head.

"Rocky would start crying out loud," Bergman said. "Now, Rocky, he'd be fine." ☐

More info: [www.peakracing.com](http://www.peakracing.com)  
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# Where's the Tofu?

A Waitsfield couple serves up meatless cuisine with flavor to spare

BY SUZANNE POSHAIZER

It is not always easy for vegetarians and omnivores to break bread together. At restaurants that serve meat, the former may find their choices limited to a lumpy salad and overcooked pasta. But strictly vegetarian eateries, when they can be found, seldom offer the savory tastes omnivores crave.

That's why the few at MINT, a Waitsfield restaurant and tea shop that opened in early November, is a pleasant surprise. Animal meat leaves way for delicacies scattering down the hearty brown-rice bowl with citrus-based greens and black turtle beans, or the crisp falafel special, which comes on a plate piled with homemade pita and lightly dressed salad and laced with tahini sauce. On a recent evening, crispies stuffed with mango-bean dill, arugula and soy mozzarella were evidence of a earthy Indian spin, with touches of sweetness from the mango and a vinegary tang from the dressed greens.

Located on Bridge Street where The Spotted Cow used to be, MINT is one of the few eateries in Vermont that serves no fish, fish or fowl. (Some offer vegetarian cuisine with rarely options alongside.) But married owners Savitri, 38 (who prefers to be known solely by her first name), and Dhan Deskar, 38, don't market their eatery as vegetarian. The way they see it, they're simply making the foods they love to eat.

Not all diners are on board, of course. On a recent Saturday afternoon, Savitri worked as a couple sat down in a booth, examined the menu and walked out when they saw their options.

A vegetarian since reading Harvey and Marilyn Diamond's *Fit for Life* in 1989, Savitri says she can no longer imagine what a meat eater might have for lunch. "We understood that food is a matter of taste," she adds, "but we hope to be a really good match [with people]. You get beamed-out when they leave."

It's no surprise to learn that MINT's owners came to Vermont by way of California — a state known for its high population of vegetarians and vegans and, accordingly, its creative meatless



Left: Savitri / Right: Dhan

cuisine. The details of their story are less common, though. Both are originally from Eastern Europe but met in Rodeo Beach. Their romance followed on the heels of Deskar falling in love with veggie cuisine.

At 6, while still in Russia, Bulgaria, Deskar browsed some websites in the counter over and sent the kitchen up in flames. Despite that misadventure, he was always drawn to cooking. "I remember getting raw milk, skimming the cream off of it and burning it into butter," he says.

When Deskar moved to Los Angeles at 18, his plan was to become an English teacher. But that changed when he began frequenting a Rodeo Beach restaurant called The Green Temple, adjacent to the on-the-beach others he visited. Although he'd grown up eating meat, Deskar was attracted to the vegetarian spot because

**SAVITRI AND DESKAR DON'T MARKET THEIR EATERY AS VEGETARIAN. THE WAY THEY SEE IT, THEY'RE SIMPLY MAKING THE FOODS THEY LOVE TO EAT.**

"the environment and the food were so good." He continues: "I smelled the smells, looked at the decor, and it felt like home. After eating there for a while month, suddenly I realized I was a de facto vegetarian."

The Green Temple's co-owner was Savitri, who'd grown up in Hungary. The daughter of a chef who used to accompany her mother to work in the kitchen, "I said I would never do that work," she recalls. Drawn to more artistic pursuits,

Savitri learned Italian and made plans to study industrial design in college, but she ended up landing a job at Pot's Hungarian branch. "I loved the life, I started traveling," she says. By the time she was accepted to design school, she no longer wanted to attend.

After she moved to L.A., Savitri fell into the restaurant business, hosting at one of the first vegetarian eateries in Orange County. When it went out of business, a well-to-do patron who missed the food gave Savitri and a friend the chance to open their own similar eatery — The Green Temple, where Deskar eventually became an ardent patron.

Noting the young man's interest, Savitri offered him a job. "It wasn't a romantic thing at first," she says. "I really liked his energy. He has a certain

WHERE THE TOFU? P. 42

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# SIDEdishes

BY SUZANNE PODZINSKI

## B-Town Chef at the Bocuse d'Or?

DAILY PLANET CHEF &amp; COMPETITION BIRMINGHAM

The Bocuse d'Or culinary competition, held every two years in Lyon, France, is as important to chefs as the Olympics is to athletes. Each participating country sends a head chef and a sous chef to battle against representatives from other nations.

Although the next Bocuse won't take place until 2011, the U.S. isn't waiting around to select its dignitary. On Monday night, famed Chef Daniel Boulud announced the names of 12 semifinalists, who will gather in February to compete for the spot. The list includes Chef **MICHAEL** **GLADUS**, who, until recently, worked for Boukid at his flagship New York restaurant and catering company. Gladus has since moved to Burlington and will be taking over the kitchen at **THE BARN** **PLAZA** in January.

## Crazy Chicken

BING FRANCHISE TO OPEN IN DOW TIDE

**HARVEY MATTHEWS** may be best known around town for owning **RED HERRING**, but the entrepreneur's newest venture is a far cry from the quirky Burlington bar.

Along with kid friend **ADAM MILLER**—a former NFL line player and UVM alum—Matthews plans to open four Vermont and New Hampshire franchises from the base of the popular Buffalo Wild Wings.

which already has about 600 locations nationwide. The first, slated to start serving in April, will take the Shelburne Road spot recently vacated by TGI Friday's.

"Wings. Beer. Sports. How

can you go wrong with that?" Matthews asks. His beloved Wild Wings will meet a variety of needs. For one, the spot will be family friendly: "You can bring your grand-father and your 3-year old, put some tables together and stay as long as you want."

Matthews notes that the franchise agreement also allows the owner to be used for local charity events, such as fundraisers for the Special Olympics and gatherings to support UVM teams.

But don't expect "Vermont maple-flavored" poultry to appear on the menu—which, Matthews admits, is fairly rigid. Owners can get their fresh wings dunked in 18-BWW classic sauces, such as Maple Habanero and Caribbean Jerk. Other offerings include Honey BBQ Chicken, Potatoes and rice of Cheesburger Slammers.

Bovine magic of local beef, however, any part of the deal. While they top the menu, sports buffs can watch the action on eight "goat" screens, Matthews says. Those less interested in who's got the ball can request a showing of "SpongeBob" at "The Simpsons." They'll have the choice of a handful of video games.

Matthews says the decision to buy into BWW

reflects one of his core personality traits: "I like challenges and need to be challenged."

Some people have asked him why the owner of two fairly local businesses didn't simply open another. But Matthews says

"This is very well organized, very segmented and very corporate in one sense, but it's a fun and energetic thing. It's something the area's gonna wrap its arms around."

## Burlington Brunch Broadens

WINE DINE LATE AT THE LANG HOUSE

Burlington is a brunch town. Demand for as much brunch supply. That's why we thought it was a wonderful to point out the **LANG HOUSE**, a Victorian B&B located on Main Street in Burlington, has opened its doors to the public for Sunday brunch. On every other day of the week, the egg breakfast and fruit computer-topped waffles are only available to guests of the B&B location.

For a short time last spring, says General Manager **ANDREW SMITH**, they invited hungry locals to dine on a Sunday to sample the goods. It worked so well that they "rearranged" brunch for the fall season.

But don't leave: The town's new **CLUB GARDEN**, happens to be my husband. So far, patrons have sampled his aged-cheddar-wash-thyme soufflé, salmon steaks with poached eggs and balsamic sauce, and caramelized pear crispies. House-made granola with **MULTICOLOR FARM** yogurt is always available. So is a Vermont artisan cheese plate. Since the **LANG HOUSE** has a liquor license, mimosa is an option, as are a handful of different beers and wines.

The final price meal is \$15 and includes mimosas, baked beverages. Reservations are required for seating at 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m.

## Traveling Treats

NEWLY RECENT BAKES UP A STORM

Last year, to **JOHN SMITH** of California and his husband traveled around New Zealand, she was surprised to find herself whipping up pastries as he was also sweet.

"We were going to a lot

of different people, and I was baking because it was a good way of exchanging 'hello there,'" says Smith, 28, who last previously worked as a pastry chef.

The constant cooking gave her the desire of starting a baking business that could pop up wherever it might come handy—a cafe, a festival or farmers market. She dubbed her concept **THE BAKERY ON WHEELS**.

When the couple returned to the United States, they decided to settle in Burlington.

Once here, Smith got a part-time job at **CLUB GARDEN** that allowed her to bring **The Noodle Co.** to life in her spare time. Last summer she sold her seasonal treats at the Old and New North Road Farmers' markets. "People were really excited about the baked goods," she recalls.

New South problems her ways, such as dairy condiments without gelatin, cereal sold since it's in the market. Smith's focus is on Christmas treats. On her website, handmade caramels and Middle Eastern confections such as stuffed dates and apricot balls are listed as "Sweet Stocking Stuffers." Other holiday desserts include a Pumpkin Tart and a dense French Ginger Cake.

Can't find what you're looking for? If you dream up a sweet, Smith will make it.

CONTACT: PODZINSKI



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**food**

# Still Rolling

Bon Temps Gourmet introduced Vermont to a world of party food

BY ALICE LEVITT



**B**ack in 1990, it wasn't easy to locate a glint of gold. This in Vermont, let alone on another far-flung. But there was one notable place to find ethnic food — a humble street cart parked in front of Christ Episcopal Church in Montpelier. Known as Bon Temps Gourmet, this was made. Itches focused on the cuisine of a different country each week. It earned on the weekly promotional tool for owner Gretchen Seres' catering company of the same name.

Tuesday Series, now 46, recalls how legislation — including that on Restaurant Customer Harassment — led to the little ethnic exchange business. He's featured her mother — and even (briefly) gone to Washington.

In 2005, Senator Leahy asked Seres and her business and life partner Greg Labarthe to help plan the first annual Taste of Vermont event to be held in the Russell Senate Caucus Room next door to the Capitol — familiar to many as the site of the Acute Hill burnings. Seres cooking fans to table Vermont dishes for the 400-strong group. Seres and Labarthe worked on promoting small, lesser-known artists producers such as Lyle Lyle Park, filling in 36-foot long table with Green Mountain cheeses.

"I literally spent five hours just planning all the cheese," greets Labarthe. Luckily for the rest of us, Bon Temps now provides a variety of that inside the Bellway lounge seated down for private parties, where they employ

chance subjects to guide guests in pairing stands and wine.

The popularity of Seres' business with politicians is no accident. Originally from Chicago (she helped campaign for McGovern at age 19), she started out as a food writer with a public school by extensive international travel — she'll even landed in kitchens in Greece after college. But her day job, primarily as a political field activist, centered on public affairs rather than cuisine.

When her travels landed her in Vermont in 1986, the lifelong foodie identified a dearth of global flavor. Seres recalls the thing, "I want my own food, I need to make it."

Figuring that others might be craving the same ethnic fare, she founded Bon Temps in 1990. Its early success spurred her to hire help: a grill master by the name of Greg Labarthe, a Middlesex native who'd worked in kitchens since age 16 but hadn't fully committed himself to a life in the kitchen. As he worked with Seres, Labarthe's passion for baking, cooking meat, and crafting beer and vinegar grew. He decided to pursue a culinary degree, and graduated from Montpelier's New England Culinary Institute in 1996.

Besides being an ace in the kitchen, Labarthe, now 37, fit Seres' relationship requirements: "No Republicans and no neo-fascists." They wed in 1998.

By that time, Labarthe was working as sous chef at La Table Public in Barre; he later became chef de cuisine under executive chef Steve Beggs and



followed the restaurant to Burlington. Meanwhile, unable to resist the draw of politics, Strine joined Sen. Patrick Leahy's team as the community and economic development liaison. For a while, neither spouse had enough energy to consider it as Tompkins' greatest more than a part-time pursuit.

When Strine's father passed away five years ago and her mother decided to split her time between Worcester and the Midwest, the cooking couple added a wriggle to their leg, and Cape Cod-style house to accommodate the new tenant, and to expand Five Tompkins. The addition included a professional kitchen complete with walk-in refrigeration and a handcrafted sink thrown by a Montreal dwelling friend. It was finally the right moment for Strine to pursue her culinary ambitions full time.

But Strine's mother, who spends a quarter of the year in her wingtip-filled Vermont apartment, isn't the only one enjoying the renovations. The rest of the year is a portion of the new wing, with pergolas, high beamed ceilings and the

which single from businesses hosting events to families celebrating college graduations. Lohrke has been known to convert Glensheen's banquet hall complete with Richard rabbit, house-baked pork and as many as 10 other courses, most of which are served with his homemade smoked chili oil. For less of a luxurious caterer, there's comfort food such as house smoked pork tenderloin braised in Lohrke's house-brewed beer with sautéed asparagus and oyster mushrooms. Dessert might be a dark chocolate and caramel tart topped with fleur de sel.

Fans of the old Capital City cart will be happy to know that of once-globetrotting are available a few times each season. Twenty years ago, Strine bought a 1965 Airstream trailer. Now it serves as a microstation of her cart at boy events, such as Montpelier's Fourth of July fireworks and the Vermont History Expo. At always, the vehicle changes its theme every few weeks to work. Sometimes it's a time truck with turkey mole or smoked pork, sometimes an open air drink cart serving house chicken and herb scallion sandwiches, sometimes a Tito street cart with chicken satay sandwiches and cucumber salad or polenta.

The Airstream goes into storage for the winter, but Strine and Lohrke stay busy catering central Vermont events. Last Wednesday, preparations for Kellogg Halliburton's Roaming at the Library on Friday were in full swing. The fundraiser is in its fourth year, and each time has drawn new hordes from Ben Tompkins' doorstep.

On this occasion, Strine was making a plate of meat potatoes, the national dish of Morocco, which traditionally consist of phyllo filled with pigeon and eggs. Not at Ben Tompkins, where local chicken is the meat in the sweet and savory, cinnamon-scented poultry.

Strine calls her specialty "glazed wood food." One example is a Spanish-style risotto that often appears at Ben Tompkins events: dates wrapped in Vermont Smoked & Cured Bacon, telling in roasted red pepper sauce.

Duck confit emerged from the oven, and Strine pulled it apart in paper phyllo cups with a tart orange-ginger-cranberry sauce. She reserved the excess fat for the couple's three cats.

As at many charity events, the pair didn't stop at feeding the crowds—they also donated to the library's silent auction. On the block was a cooking class in their professional kitchen with the top bidder choosing the focus, whether Indian curries, local herbs or the



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who of an Airstream camp, becomes a bed and breakfast.

Whether it's for their guests at the cart, Lohrke and Strine are whizzes at whipping up customized, audience-specific "closed-door dinners" served around their large wooden table. Says Strine, "We try to keep people around the table as long as possible. We feel that people don't spend enough time around the dinner table."

To design menus that will make busy people stay put, the pair conduct detailed consultations with their clients,

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## Where's the Tofu? by JOAN

eloquence about him," and he is always happy, always smiling, always light."

But it took some prompting for them to take the next step in their relationship. One evening, Sontin asked Deskov if he would play the accordion under her mother's window to remind her of the old country and be obliged. Her mother's response: "This guy would be perfect for you if he were a little older."

"I realized he was perfect anyway," Sontin said.

Since the two were a couple, and Deskov had enrolled at a nearby Catholic school, they married in Sontin's native Hungary and spent seven months there, then another five years in L.A. In 2008, the pair decided to make the Mad River Valley their home. Sontin says she felt drawn to their area after reading a *Vermont Life* article about American Federal.

they began to go on a struggle up at a table with a worn bench and a bench.

The front of the house is Sontin's domain, but the back belongs to Deskov. Dark haired, sporting a small earring and wearing a chaf coat with sleeves rolled up — revealing one of the telltale burns that mark Sontin's arms — he waves easily around the small kitchen. In mid-December, he'll leave his fall-time job as food and beverage director at the Grey Box Inn to devote all his attention to MINT. "People like to know what's cooking for them," he says. "It's good to be involved."

How does he make MINT's food taste so good? Deskov gives away a few veggie secrets as he mixes up a batch of marinated tofu, which makes an impressive alongside grains and beans in one of MINT's \$7.99 bowls. He notes that a trio to one portion of veggie



For Sontin, a pinch here and there with light brushes and numerous toasts, MINT is more than a source of income, it's also a source of inspiration. "Most restaurants lack something that's very important to me: they seem to be places of routine," she says, and confuses to feeling a "Vermont enthusiasm" when patrons clean their plates. She craves the physical commitment as well as the food. "I'm always trying to keep [MINT] alive, changing things. I am the designer of this place."

Her designer's touch is evident in the draperies and pillows that add color to the dining room, the simply elegant wooden tables and benches, and the collection of imports sold in the tea shop, located as an annex at the front of the restaurant. The house-lift business and tea range from the owners' own herbal blends — including a Russian mix with oranges and chocolate and a cold-fighting lemon berry lemongreen — to Asian greens, black and oranges. Patrons can

Liquid Amaranth and organic, when-free tomato makes a great stand-in for salt, because it imparts "a little bit of that fermented flavor." Deskov adds onion, garlic, shredded onion a Microplane grater, and dried basil, parsley and fennel seeds to his bowl.

The key to a flavorful result, he suggests, is to steam, to give the soy cubes plenty of time in a 400 degree oven, which allows them to keep in shape as they bake. Spreading the tofu on a lightly oiled baking sheet, Deskov declares there's not quite enough liquid to generate the proper amount of steam — which helps the crust soft and bakes in the sauce — so he pours on a bit of water.

According to this chef, one common but easily remedied cooking mistake is expecting a strong sauce to make up for bland ingredients. "The more is the last bit that makes everything come together. Everything else has to be flavored before the sauce reaches it," he suggests. Not

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Central Vermont Community Action Council, Inc.  
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**Learning objectives:** Compare and contrast the different strategies used to support persons with verbal deficits through recovery. In particular, discuss the importance of providing positive patient advice, advocacy, case management, counseling and case support. In addition, describe a variety of social and professional strategies used to support persons with verbal deficits through recovery. Discuss the importance of providing positive patient advice, advocacy, case management, counseling and case support. In addition, describe a variety of social and professional strategies used to support persons with verbal deficits through recovery. Discuss the importance of providing positive patient advice, advocacy, case management, counseling and case support. In addition, describe a variety of social and professional strategies used to support persons with verbal deficits through recovery.

SING, L. A. 1999. <http://www.sing-lab.org>.

The Griffithsian Clinic is looking for frequency administration technician starting Jan. 1. Primary responsibilities include observing melocytes (growth) in feeding, analyzing cells, and other administration duties as needed. Please email [Griffiths@griffithsclinic.com](mailto:Griffiths@griffithsclinic.com) or call 813-551-1111. The work is non-stressful and is approximately 4 weeks.

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**Quality Assurance  
Coordinator,  
Part-Time,  
Temporary Position**

The Division of Continuing Professional Studies seeks a part-time Quality Assurance Coordinator to observe online course activity within the Champlain College learning management system (ANGEL). The successful candidate will work with deans to identify and resolve issues as well as recommend system or resource changes that will enhance the learning experience of online students. This position will interact with members of the academic and student services teams.

A bachelor's degree and some online course experience either as a student or faculty are required. Critical thinking and excellent problem-solving skills are required.

The position is 30 hours per week, and is expected to end by June 30, 2010.

Submit a resume, cover letter linked in profile and other relevant social media sites online at [www.charaplan.edu/hr](http://www.charaplan.edu/hr). The successful completion of a criminal background check is required as a condition of employment. Application deadline: December 18, 2008.

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PART-TIME INSTRUCTOR OF  
CHINESE LANGUAGE (MANDARIN)

The Department of Modern Languages at Saint Michael's College is seeking a part-time instructor of Chinese language (Mandarin) to begin fall 2010. Applicants should hold at least a master's degree and have experience in teaching the language.

Keywords: counter; degree; tracking; error; score

Review of applications will begin December 15, 2009 and continue until the position is filled.

Applicants should demonstrate a commitment to undergraduate teaching and be supportive of the mission of this Catholic, residential, liberal arts college with an undergraduate enrollment of 2000 students. Saint Michael's College is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to fostering and affirming an inclusive, multicultural, and ethnic environment for its students, faculty, and staff. In their cover letters, applicants are encouraged to address their personal contributions to the mission of this diversity.

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feeding inspired? A mix of lemon, honey and garlic "makes anything good," Devlin says.

When he whips up do, an Irish dish of leeks sautéed with spices, Devlin boasts his spices is better before adding young beans, and he makes sure to toss in the aromatic in a particular order.

Devlin is more enthusiastic about that burner than Swiss. Although the two agree on being "most fun, when it comes to ingredients such as eggs and milk, they are sometimes at odds. "There is a big [sketch] between me and my wife," Devlin says. "We would use everything, every, and my understanding is that dessert can't be good on that butter!"

The events at MINT allow patrons to decide for themselves. On one evening,

choices include tofu based pumpkin pie and a lack lemon tart made with eggs and butter.

Despite his love of decadent desserts, Devlin says he doesn't miss eating meat, and his wife, spokeswoman, describes the process of becoming vegetarian with a lot of favor. "First you're in that tunnel where it's taking out things of your diet, and then you enter into this whole different world. You discover all the different herbs, all the different spices, all of the old traditions that have so many naturally vegetarian dishes. That's the whole world to discover."

And MINT's owners do their best to put that world on your plate. It's enough to make even some serious carnivores turn committed vegetarians — at least for an evening. ☺

## Still Rolling and

now delights Labarthe ministered at A Single Pebble.

How do Sturis and Labarthe develop their world of recipes? Sturis refers to dining out as "research and development," noting that she's never without her trusty restaurant log to record new tastes worth sharing with clients.

And, of course, they still get their passports stamped regularly. On a recent trip to Argentina, cooking classes helped the couple hone their chameleon recipe. They served it at the Kellogg Hubbard fundraiser with special MINT replacing the usual parsley in the garlicky sauce, atop ribbons of medium rare lamb.

When there isn't time to hop on a plane, Sturis and Labarthe light it all across the border. The pair is so fond about Montreal that they've translated their favorite corner corner address.

"It drives us crazy that people in Vermont aren't hooked on Montreal," says Sturis. She and Labarthe fill their rainbow with up to six clients for day long, neighborhood, team in which they share their foods — culinary and otherwise — with Vermonters alike, going to know the city they love step by step. Just before Market, which Sturis calls "one of the best places in the world," she adds, "If I were religious, it would be my church."

Gypsy music is among the couple's top secondary pleasures. A favorite tour stop is the Cafe Stripes on rue Clark, a Basque bar that dukes up caviar and a rocking band of Bulgarian phantoms who, Sturis says, are guaranteed to get patrons dancing on the tables.

On one occasion, the couple led a special Montreal tour designed to track Vermont farmers to make old-world style sausage and charcuterie from their animals. The farmers met an outrageous Hungarian butcher with kitchen hygiene that would make the health inspector blush. But they were fascinated to see unique sausage and terrines made by a young Portuguese man named Fernando.

Though Sturis and Labarthe admit that they always return from Canada with a careful dossier of dangerous olive oils and spices for their business, they're steadfast members of the Vermont Fresh Network, and some Hollister Hill and Worcester Woods Farms to their top producers. Sturis is also a board member of the Preservation Trust of Vermont and has taken it upon herself to aid in making farms and community centers viable as catering facilities. To boost local agriculture, Bon Temps has started agricultural operations such as Clouded Barn in Freetown with touring on site events.

The days when Sturis' cart was a Montpelier landmark are over — and with them, the days when crime came in Vermont was a myth. But the bar is still going strong. Though their cuisine spans the globe, the owners of Bon Temps' gourmet spend most of their days on smaller back road regions. With gigs reaching all the way from Bennington to the Northeast Kingdom, they say their favorite part of the job is exploring their own state.

"The gastronomy is a key part of our soul kit," says Labarthe. Adds Sturis, "Every day is a beautiful drive to the office." ☺

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## music

### Zack duPont, *Paths*

(Self-released CD)

After listening to his full-length solo debut, *Paths*, roughly 47 times in the last week or so, I have a question for Zack duPont: Just where the hell did you come from, man?

Identify that question will serve a dual purpose. One, I honestly don't know much about the dude beyond that he currently lives in Burlington and plays acoustic tones fairly often, both solo and with his band Struck, and that once upon a time he played in Japhy Ryder and Hildebrand Run. When duPont approached me about reviewing his album, he was hesitant to say too much about his background or the project itself, preferring to let his music stand on its own. I can respect that.

The other purpose: The hoping and querying has something about my general bewilderment regarding duPont's business effort. At the risk of hyperbole — for writing this word is the last time — it is an astounding display of consistency and tenacity, eventually gripping something called *Howdy*, how has he been under my radar to this point?

A sweetening finger picked acoustic guitar line introduces "Pace of Wind" and sets the disc's moodier tone. Though every emotion in my record knows now, even not, I have to say this: His playing reminds me of Nick Drake. Simply put, duPont is an elite guitarist. Here and throughout the album, his attention to dynamic subtlety — in addition to immaculate technical polish and engaging melody lines — is remarkable.

Surprisingly, duPont's vocal performance is intimate, nuanced and affecting. His apparent talent to mesh core with his lead-lined delivery as he deals with incomprehensibly understated guitar work. The result, evidence of thoughtful but especially on cuts such as "Pace of Wind" and "Across the Coast," in that such of his talents work fully in concert with the others. Imagine M. Ward collaborating with Iron and Wine. The word you're looking for is "sublime."

The disc has just one flaw and it comes



case of the artist's brilliance: providing it, the song lies mostly out of place, as it belongs on another disc — or with another band.

Regardless, *Paths* is a refreshing gem from start to (almost) finish. And with it, duPont has finally established himself as one of the state's most promising and exciting musicians.

Rick duPont endorses on a note-out of best interests this week to celebrate the release of *Paths*. Catch him Friday at The Music Store, Saturday at Parkers Avenue Lounge, Monday at Norcross, or Tuesday at the Wood Tavern in Morrisville.

DAN ROLLES

### My Dearest Darling, *My Dearest Darling*

(Self-released CD)

Don't look now but it seems like long ago that as one Burlingtonian may have known version of an independent singer-songwriter in My Dearest Darling. Composed of two former members of Tall Ship (Mason Daniel Manning, Chris Marshall, half of Lushington) and one William (Gabe Gaudreault, the band is set to release its self-titled debut album. And as with any other supergroup, the results represent a whole that is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts.



DAN ROLLES

## REVIEW *this*

"The Perfect Day" gets things underway with a rippling piano slide that erupts into a ringing, serene of deep synth and green electric guitar. R&B with a twist — a growing groove just long enough that the listener feels like a nuclear punch. Just as quickly, the band shifts into gear again, this time laying into a steady lead and roll tempered with eerie, wailing guitar riffs.

The most alluring phrase continues in the following cut, "Stress," which meditates between a sunny, poppy heavy groove and genuine harmonic intricacies. As the eleven endures throughout the record, Manning — the group's primary architect — proves one masterfully subversive songwriter.

"Thanks for This Day" is a standout, revealing both Villalaz's knack for the dramatic and Lushington's loopy pop confections.

"Luna Moth & Firefly" is next, and appropriately enough, both features and sparkles with a conclusion of nebulous, soft, lovelorn shouting stars, courtesy of Hager's aching guitar.

"Waves" is next. Another playfully — again, with heavily by hints of youth and a touch of angst. Here, Manning uses full advantage of the expansive vocal talents at his disposal, dispatching his bandmates to match the song's celestial aesthetic with blossoming harmonies.

"Think of an Egg" wraps up the disc and is a very subtle case of the extended note chosen that provided it, like a moment of the album itself. It's a fitting end to a

marvelous effort from some of the region's finest up-and-coming talents.

My Dearest Darling release their new disc this Thursday at Netter's.

DAN ROLLES

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SAT 12 (1) THE PRIMATE FRISCO (PSYCHEDELIC EXOTIC/LAND)

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Washington-based quartet **THE PRIMATE FRISCO** would really prefer if you kept your suffering genre descriptors to yourselves and merely embraced them as "music." Rather, they would love it if you went to their show at Monks' Black Door Bar & Bistro this Saturday with but one expectation: to have a "rocker," "teaser" (good time, throw less) throw enough to us. However, for and/or curious types who've just gotten their tates pigenholed, we suppose you could call them "psychedelic." Download "That comes as apt summation of The FF's lively and unpredictable take on traditional New England. Or you could just call them what we do: one hell of a fun band.

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And together we set the World Record for the most Superheroes gathered in one place!

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DECEMBER 26-31, 2011

## Scrooging Around

**A** Christmas Caroler out? So was the Vermont Actors' Repertory Theatre. After staging Dickens' quintessential holiday story for four years, the production company wanted to spice things up. Mark Isenwerth's *The Trial of Ebenezer Scrooge*, an over-the-top comedy, fit the bill. In this tale, putting up a year after Dickens left off, Ebenezer is back to his miserly and heartless ways. He's using Marley and the ghosts. Will the Christmas spirit prevail? Take a seat and act as Bill Cratchit (playing cheapoat Scrooge) and the rest of the Actors' Rep gang put on an entertaining courtroom farce, directed by Middlesex County's Glena Turbell. As Talbot Broadway notes, "It has just enough 'oh, huzzah!' in it to ease you slowly into the happiness of the holidays."

### THE TRIAL OF EBENEZER SCROOGE

Wednesday December 9 through Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall Theater in West Rutland 50-15 Info: 355-1056 [www.actorsrep.org](http://www.actorsrep.org)

## 9/12 | THEATER

## Winter Passing

**R**obert Frost's "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening" captures an image of Vermont's snow-clad serenity through the written word. Now, new music by Burlington's Social Band does the same through song. Five-choice tracks from the 32-chapter singers anticipate both the starkness of the season and its celebratory spirit in their album out this month, *Deep Adventure: Songs From Winter's Heart*. These polished sounds include a hostful of new works by Vermont composers, such as Thomas L. Road's "Winter Fields, Woods and Air" and Billy Driskell's "In the Deep Woods." English medieval carols add to the usual repertoire of American shanties, Appalachian, Indian and Georgia traditions. Now all we need to make snow...

### SOCIAL BAND

Saturday, December 12, 7:30 p.m., at Richmond Free Library; and Sunday, December 13, 4 p.m., at First Baptist Church in Rutland 502-12-0000 Info: 505-1932 [www.socialband.org](http://www.socialband.org)

## 12 & 13 | MUSIC



## Here We Come A-Wassailing

**W**assailers' cars rather than spreading seasonal cheer? You can still walk the holiday circuit by joining Woodstock's Wassa! Weekend Holiday House Tour. Struck into the middle of a three-day town tradition packed with a craft fair, horse parade, tree lighting and musical performances, folks pay a visit to the village's most historic and charming abodes. Six private homes and the Queen Anne-style Marzetti-Bellings-Rockefeller mansion deck the ir hills and ages a door to others, with door signs stationed along the way to point out architectural highlights and answer questions. Horse-drawn wagons offer stylish transportation to each stop, and live musicians add melody to the air. A gingerbread house display and reception at the Woodstock Inn make for a festive finish.

### WASSAIL WEEKEND HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at various locations in Woodstock. Start by getting your horse-drawn wagon at Town Hall Theater 530-35, or head to visit the Marzetti-Bellings-Rockefeller mansion only. Tickets can be ordered online, over the phone or in person at the Pottenger Arts Box Office inside Town Hall 530-4227-3881 [www.pottengerarts.org](http://www.pottengerarts.org)

## Doctor, Doctor, Give Me the News

**I**t is the season of giving, but the field staff of the Nobel Peace Prize-winning medical humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders don't wait for a designated time of year to lend a hand. A live broadcast from New York City's Skirball Center explores the sacrifices and challenges of four aid workers in the war-torn Congo and post-conflict Liberia. The 90-minute doc *Living in Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders* interviews their stories and struggles to save lives in extreme conditions. "20/20" news anchor Elizabeth Vargas wraps it up with a panel discussion featuring apogee from one of the doctors, the director of DWB-USA, and award-winning journalists as they explore these real dilemmas. It's sure to make you consider what "giving" really means.



## 14 | FILM



## 12 | HOLIDAYS

### LIVING IN EMERGENCY: STORIES OF DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS

Friday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., at Palace Cinema 6 in South Burlington 562-5511 Info: 660-9300 [www.palacecin.com](http://www.palacecin.com)



Holiday shop at a  
Locally-owned Bookstore!  
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BOOKS



**Saturday, December 12th from 2:00 pm-4:30 pm**  
**Coming Closer to Home with Diane Lewis**  
Locusts looking for home? Better stop early! Join  
Winnetka's own Diane Lewis for a delicious  
demonstration and scrumptious samples from  
her new cookbook.

and at 4:30 pm **Saturday, December 12th**  
Guest City Chorus will perform **Three Lessons**  
donors plenty of chills and a pinch of humor  
when she takes us on a tour of her book  
**Haunted Rockingham: Spirits from Winnetka's  
Green City.**



# calendar

## WED 12

**AMERICAN JAZZ** The legendary jazz orchestra makes  
its Phoenix appearance with a reading from the new book  
The Phoenix and Jazz: The Story of the Phoenix Jazz  
Orchestra 7 pm Free info 225-9355

**POETRY READING** Authors Kaitlyn and Robert  
Kinsman share poems from their upcoming  
collection of poems of the Phoenix and aging  
community respectively. Acoustic-Poetry Library  
Hawthorne 7 pm Free info 428-3588 youth  
publicly invited and invited

**PROPHETIC DISCOVERY** What happened after  
Moses died? A study of the prophecies in the prophet  
writing the book to us is not for the faint of heart. Temple  
House Jewish Fellowship 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.  
Free info 819-8193

**YOU CAN'T TALK** Spoken word is a growing indie  
cultural form of self-expression. Join poets from  
Arise Center for T.S. Eliot and Peter Gorman and  
Joan and Michael. Vermont Nonverbal Center  
Westchester 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Free info 225-9355

School groups and greenhouse program to  
host John Westchester 5:30 p.m. 54-42 info 225-  
9355 and 548

**ROCKHOLLOWS SUMMIT** The Rockholler  
Agriculture Council and the Vermont Sustainable  
Jobs Fund gather on the farm to lead producers  
and visitors to the farm. The farm is open to the  
public for the 10-year plan to build a more  
local food economy. Editha Montague High  
School 5:30 p.m. 54-42 info 548-1105

## Health & Fitness

**WALKING FOR GOOD** Join us for a walk to  
support the local food economy. The farm is open to the  
public for the 10-year plan to build a more  
local food economy. Editha Montague High  
School 5:30 p.m. 54-42 info 548-1105

## Food & Drink

**ANTHONY'S BAGGAGE** Join us for a walk to  
support the local food economy. The farm is open to the  
public for the 10-year plan to build a more  
local food economy. Editha Montague High  
School 5:30 p.m. 54-42 info 548-1105

**EDITHA MONTAGUE HIGH SCHOOL** Join us for a walk to  
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School 5:30 p.m. 54-42 info 548-1105

## THU 10

### business

**CENTRAL BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN RED CROSS**  
Join us for a walk to support the local food economy.  
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## "A John Waters Christmas"

Thursday, December 10 at 7:30 pm

"An uproarious, if somewhat  
transgressive, glass of holiday  
cheer" —Daily Variety

University  
Allen & Son's Book Store

Buckingham  
College

Academy  
of Art

VPR  
Video Production  
Resources



## Nebraska Theatre Caravan "A Christmas Carol"

Sunday, December 13 at 7 pm

Free admission

"A heartwarming family treat!"  
—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

University  
Allen & Son's Book Store

Buckingham  
College

Academy  
of Art

VPR  
Video Production  
Resources



## "A Canadian Brass Christmas"

Tuesday, December 15 at 7:30 pm

Free admission

"A heartwarming family treat!"  
—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

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Buckingham  
College

Academy  
of Art

VPR  
Video Production  
Resources



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## THE GREEN MOUNTAIN NUTCRACKER

SAT 12/19, 7PM  
SUN 12/20, 2PM



Moving Light Dance Company  
returns with its highly acclaimed new green  
version of this holiday dance favorite.

TICKETS \$10-22 • 476-8188  
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*Credit!*

Get a **\$50**  
Gift Certificate  
for just **\$40**

\*Special certificate available  
12/19/13 thru 12/20/13 only  
not valid after  
12/25/13

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8 Church Street, Burlington  
864-5475 • [boutilliers.com](http://boutilliers.com)  
M-Sat 10-8, Sun 11-5

## FIND SELECT EVENTS ON TWITTER @4TODAYSCALENDAR

SUN 12 @ 4 PM

**WILKINSON CRAWLERS**  
Sutton Loomis and  
Burlington  
double double double  
at a holiday  
throughput, turn and  
wind-down. Meet us at  
4 p.m. at City Hall. Various  
donor donations.  
Burlington 4 p.m. Free  
Info: 330-3845

**WEDDING WEDDING SALE**

545 SUTTER 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**THE HILLY BAZAAR VARIETY SHOW**

**A BARE GOLF** Sun 12/15, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**WALK OF THE DARTS WEEKEND** Sun 12/15

7-10 p.m. 3-7 p.m.

**WEDDING WEDDING WEEKEND** Sun 12/15

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Kids**

**CONCERN WITH KIDS** Baker Carline Loomis

at 10:30 a.m. in Wilton, 12/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

and donating for the medicals program. Sign up at the customer service desk. City Market

Burlington 12/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free Info: 330-3845

**READ TO A KID** Sun 12/15 10 a.m.

**Events**

**ANNUAL REUNION** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the

1000 a.m. in Wilton, 12/15, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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variety singing, and  
and a variety of singing,  
Shelburne 4 p.m. Free  
Info: 330-3845

**VERMONT VARIETY SHOW**  
The  
Hillside Farm Center  
includes a variety of  
variety singing, and  
and a variety of singing,  
Shelburne 4 p.m. Free  
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**VERMONT VARIETY SHOW**  
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## CENTRAL TO YOUR NEW LIFE



"We had a very  
pleasant experience.  
Everything was  
fantastic."

Well, to the season ... and  
new babies are always cause  
for celebration! And this is  
extra special because our  
very own Doctors Felsted  
became parents! Yes, Laura  
and Andrew celebrated

Thanks giving a few days early with the arrival of Piper Allen. Felsted  
on Tuesday, November 24. She weighed 6lb 11.5oz and is 20" long. Her  
mom Laura, of Barnet Internal Medicine, and her dad Andrew, one of our  
Emergency Department doctors, are natural. The happy Felsted family  
live in Waterbury. Our warmest congratulations!



Roger E. Felsted  
MD, OB/Gyn



Sheila McLean  
RN, CN



Brad Watson  
MD, Anesthesiologist



Harriet Shen  
MD, Pediatrician



Steve Balch  
MD, OB/Gyn

**Central Vermont Medical Center**  
Central To Your Well Being [www.cvmc.org](http://www.cvmc.org)

Central Vermont Obstetrics,  
Gynecology & Midwifery - 371-3961  
Call 371-4613 to schedule a tour of our  
Garden Path Birthing Center.



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UP TO 1000+ LOCAL EVENTS & MORE. 4TODAYSCALENDAR.COM  
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**1000+ Events**

**LAUREY CARROLL**  
A Middlebury College  
professor, Carroll  
includes a variety of  
variety singing, and  
and a variety of singing,  
Shelburne 4 p.m. Free  
Info: 330-3845

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## MON.14

## dinner

**CREATING PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTHY MEETING**  
 Health and wellness goes beyond just food. It's about creating a community where everyone has a voice. The next time you're planning a meeting, consider the health and wellness of your team. This is a chance to create a healthy meeting. 10:00am - 1:00pm. Free. Info: 978-689-0091

## dance

**AFRO-CARIBBEAN DANCE CLASS**  
 Experience the vibrant rhythms of Afro-Caribbean dance. This class is open to all levels of dancers. It's a chance to learn the history and culture of the dance. 7:00pm - 8:30pm. \$10. Info: 978-689-0091

## chess

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHESS MEETING**  
 Learn how to play chess in the comfort of your home. This is a chance to learn the rules and strategies of the game. 7:00pm - 9:00pm. Free. Info: 978-689-0091

**GOING GREEN WITH GOLF**  
 Golf is a great way to stay active and healthy. This is a chance to learn the basics of the game. 9:00am - 11:00am. \$10. Info: 978-689-0091

**HERNIMOUNT GOLF**  
 This is a chance to learn the basics of the game. 9:00am - 11:00am. \$10. Info: 978-689-0091

## films

**LIVING IN EMERGENCY: STORIES OF DEATH**  
 This is a chance to learn the basics of the game. 9:00am - 11:00am. \$10. Info: 978-689-0091

## health &amp; fitness

**HEALTHY LIVING: STORIES OF DEATH**  
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## Find the Perfect Gift at Burlington Town Center

No matter what is on your list this holiday season you're sure to find it at Burlington Town Center. Visit our outstanding collection of shops including Abercrombie & Fitch, Aeropostale, American Eagle, Ann Taylor Loft, Chico's, Coldwater Creek, Gap, Hollister, J. Jill, J. Crew, Journey's, Pottery Barn, Victoria's Secret, Williams-Sonoma, Vermont's only Macy's department store and more!



What brings you today?

**Mail Hours** Wed-Fri, Dec. 9 - 11, 10am to 9pm  
 Sat, Dec. 12, 9am to 9pm  
 Sun, Dec. 13, 10am to 7pm  
 Mon-Wed, Dec. 14 - 16, 9am to 10pm



Burlington Town Center

Find extended holiday mail hours, rules and event information along with a complete store directory at [www.burlingtontowncenter.com](http://www.burlingtontowncenter.com)





# EARN \$50

## Research Project on Decision Making

Group will meet on  
**December 16, 2009, 5-9pm.**  
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## WHITE RIVER JUNCTION

Joseph's Lambert graduated from The Citadel for US Coast Guard in White River, June 13th, followed in 2008 he continues to live in White River with his wife and dog.



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## MOVIE CLIPS

NOT PLAYED 40/100



## NEW IN THEATERS

**THE EXPENDABLES** (PG-13) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)

**INVIOLABLE** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)

**SAMUEL JOHNSON** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)

**THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)



## NOW PLAYING

**THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)

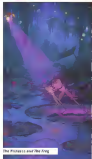
**THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)

NOT PLAYED 10/100

## ratings

★ = awful movie  
 ★★ = could be better, but not a lot  
 ★★★ = this is decent, but not  
 ★★★★ = somewhat better than average  
 ★★★★★ = so good it's great

**THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) **THEY SAY** (PG) What is director Scott Cooper's take on this concept? Is it a 1930s noir thriller about the slow-motion unraveling of a corrupt justice system? With Tom Hanks, Jeremy Irons, and Billy Crudup (PG-13, Rotten Tomatoes)





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## NEWS QUIRKS BY ROLAND SWEET

### Curses, Foiled Again

Police investigating a drive-by shooting at a home in Durham, Wis., found auto glass in the street and deduced the shooter had forgotten to lower his car window before firing five shots. Appleton's Fast Crescent reported that a check of area auto glass repair shops led to Andrew J. Barrows, 20, who admitted shooting at the house, where his car is still stored.

### Win Some, Lose Some

Mary Lett, a candidate at the Cook County, Ill., sheriff's office, was awarded \$14,322 for expenses she claims she suffered on two separate occasions while "reaching around to pick up a piece of lost paper," according to court documents.

After his release from prison, David M. Cohen, 43, a former police sergeant in Springfield, Mass., asked the town to reimburse him \$114,485 for expenses related to his case. The Boston Herald reported that Judge Cohen claims the town owes him for 37 accrued vacation days, 125 unused sick days, 94 hours of compensatory time accrued for not using his time, 182 hours of supervisor's wages, 481 hours for court appearances related to his criminal case, 260 hours of overtime to prepare for his case, at least 61 percent education incentive pay for 2002, and 61 percent for accrued expense and benefits. Cohen's conviction in 2007 was for attempted extortion. "We will respect the man's request," Town Manager Mark R. Stodolnickiewicz declined.

### Opportunity Knocks

The Illinois Attorney Registration & Disciplinary Commission sanctioned its conducting sanctions against Chicago immigration attorney Steven Chosen for telling a woman seeking employment at his firm that she was a job requirement. The Chicago Tribune said the woman complained to the commission that after she responded to Chosen's ad as a Craigslist seeking an "exotic" woman for "general secretarial work, some part-time work and additional duties for two lawyers," Chosen had replied by email that "in addition to the legal work, you would be required to have sexual interaction with me and my partners, sometimes together sometimes separate." Chosen said that previous women filling the position "were not brave" to handle the sexual aspect of the job offer. "We have to be sure you're comfortable with that aspect, because I don't want you to do anything that you're not comfortable with. So once that time, we've decided that as part of the interview process you'll be required to perform for us

sexually." The email concluded, "I am free to interview today."

### How the World Works

After last year's chocolate sale failed to raise enough money, a parent advisory council at Rosewood Middle School in Goldsboro, N.C., came up with a plan to sell test scores. According to Raleigh's News and Observer, students can buy 20 test points for \$25 and add 10 extra points to any two tests of their choice. Although the extra points could change a B to an A or from a failing grade to a passing grade on the two tests, principal Stephanie Graham warned that they probably wouldn't amount to enough to change a student's overall grade.

The 2002 Municipal Rehabilitation and Recovery Act that put Camden, N.J., under state control said \$26 million for dozens of city projects that officials promised would create jobs and lift Camden out of poverty. Instead, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported, most of the bailout money, \$99 million, went to universities, hospitals and government agencies and tourist attractions — including \$25 million to expand the aquarium to include hippopotamuses and sharks. Noting the money turned out to have no effect on Camden's median income, which remains the lowest of any medium-sized American city, the Inquirer observed, "Thanks to \$25 million in recovery money, America's poorest city now has hopes."

### More Nails in Print's Coffin

Nearly half of regular Internet users in the United States said they're willing to read news online, including on mobile devices. The survey, commissioned by Boston Consulting, found that the 48 percent who said they would pay for online news indicated the average amount they would pay is \$1 a month. Although both figures were lower than those surveyed in other Western countries, Americans were more likely than the others to pay for admission to sites that offered Internet access to multiple papers.

A meeting of magazine editors at a hotel in Tacoma, Wash., ended when two men announced they wanted to quit their jobs, only to be beaten with baseball bats and golf clubs. Police arrested the remaining six editors on an SUV past blockades away after discovering one was armed with brass knuckles and a gun. KOMO-TV reported the door-to-door subscription operation, called Fresh Start Opportunities, was a scam in which young men claiming to make a fresh start in life stole donations ranging from \$95 to \$990 without delivering the magazines.





## Sagittarius

(Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

One of your top accomplishments in 2009 is the way you have united parts of yourself that had not previously been very well connected. It seems you decided that you were tired of being so split up into fragmented sub-personalities that had different agendas. Somehow you managed to convince them all to work together in a common cause. Now I'm quite impressed with the new spirit of cooperation that's at work in your depths. I predict it will lead to an unprecedented singleness of purpose in 2010.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) "Indignation is one of the most rewarding of emotions," writes Theodore Roosevelt. "In well as one that automatically gives meaning to life."

There is nothing like indignation to get the juices circulating and the mind working. Of all the ideas that have made me entitle and indignant in recent weeks this one strikes me the most. I disagree so completely that I am practically beating myself with anything new. And as I plunge my attention further and further into this dubious proposal, I feel the tension mounting and my body is becoming more and more restless and impatient. I feel that I am enjoying my right to a second not-very-pleasant. Please don't follow my example. It's possible that your fury could be useful to you in a way that right now you should avoid it. If you want your intelligence to work at peak efficiency in the coming days, you'll need long stretches of serene local calm.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 21) The evidence is incontrovertible: You have definitely acquired more power in 2009. Whether that means greater respect from your employees, better access to a group of subordinates I don't know. What I do know is that you are in greater charge of your own destiny. You know yourself much better and are smarter about presenting yourself to what you need when presented it. You have grown up, it seems to me, in terms of willpower in part by harnessing the energy of your otherwise untamed, blind

face just doesn't have the same control over your life as it used to. More than ever before, you're making decisions based on your really good for you rather than on your ancient brain-computer.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21) I bet you traveled all over creation in 2009 — or at least of local regions — to a wide range of novel sights and sounds near your home. I bet I pray that you've escaped one of those rather too narrow perspectives and these new experiences. I'm also hoping that instead last 12 months, you have regularly sought out pleasant jobs and health-taking visits that have inspired you to use the big picture of your unfolding destiny. If you haven't been doing these things with the eager abandon you should have, please take the next flight to the other side of the world. Get unfamiliar food, meet people who are very different from you, listen to strange music, climb a mountain, and get your mind blown.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) So how are you doing with your growing insurance project, Cancer? Have you been taking one of the finishing touches these past few weeks? If not, it's so close to high time for you to officially and definitively rise from the dead. Your wandering on the underworld is at an end. Your mourning for broken dreams should be complete. In January the sign of capricorn will begin to make sure your return spark is ready for action by then.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) I bet your relationship life will be a source of revolutionary learning in 2010. Adulterers are always and partnership will drive you into some highly educational fun and games. You will be excited to devotely expand your understanding of the nature of commitment. You will also be asked to dig deeper to discover your real desires, who you truly are have been partially camouflaged by more superficial motives. The end of every single day during the winter days of darkness. How should you prepare for the interesting tests of the next 12 months? How can you get yourself in shape to earn the demanding gifts that will be withered? Now is an excellent time to start thinking about these questions.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Whenever the tide goes out, the creek flows next to lose a lot of its water to the bay. It becomes a narrow trickle surrounded by stretches of mud. From a distance the mud looks like a well-laid carpet, but if you get up close you'll see it's covered with long furrows, pits and bulges. This is evidence that many small creatures live there, although only the hungry ducks and eiders know exactly where to look to find them. Go like these birds. Virgo, as you survey your version of the mud flat, ignore anyone who tells you that it's barren. Go searching for the rich polings.

**LIRIA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) It seems to me that in 2009 you've learned to have the fact

that all the world's a stage. You've found rules that have lent themselves to play and you've expressed yourself with the nuanced feel of a skilled actor in an elaborate theatrical production. I have very much enjoyed seeing you reveal the full range of your wonders. If I may say so, you have been the astrological sign, you would get the prize for Best Performances of One's True Self.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 22) "The nature of the job, a profession, for a good old friend," said Finnemore Sedney/Luna. I was talking about the craft of creating movies, but he could have also been advising you on how to make the most of the coming week. Your task is to set in order every thing that can be set in order. Get very organized. Make sure you're well-rehearsed. Be warmed up and highly alert. That way you'll be ready to respond with graceful intent when serendipitous opportunities arise with in the framework you've put in place.

**CAPRICORN** (Jan. 22-Feb. 19) In his book *The Way of Zen*, William S. Burroughs defines the "bravado" as "that in between time after you've let go of your old life and before you've fully discovered and incorporated your new life." Several friends! Maybe the neutral zone where you're currently remaining isn't as dramatic that I might say. It's a time of every single day of every single day and you're not wandering, waiting. But I suspect you have at least let go of one aspect of your old familiar rhythms and have yet to enter into the one that'll be familiar in the future. My advice? Don't rush it. Let all you can out of this unique and educational time in the neutral zone.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) In 2009 the corner powers that be have been conspiring to get you to expand your self image and enlarge your understanding of your place in the world. So I trust that in these last 12 months you have altered a narrow or ingrained self-image or conventional physical appearance or begun your transformation — or done something to include a new phase in your long-term goals. If for some reason you've been nervous about doing this work, I suggest you scramble to make-up for lost time. And if you haven't been taking advantage of the abundant cosmic help, it's now time to move on to phase two: transformation.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) To prepare for his turn to hit, I Minor League baseball player gives a thoughtful, albeit poor, mental view of the hit as he looks it up. It's a few pounds heavier than it normally is, it weighs takes a number of practice swings. The theory is that when he removes the doughnut and strikes up to home plate to actually hit against a pitcher when the throw of the ball is 90 miles per hour, the ball will hit better. He's right, it is a using factor. As you prepare for your own equivalent of going up to bat, Pisces, I urge you to use this as your aperitif metaphor.

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# COMICS+puzzles

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE  
(P. 10) IN CLASSIFIEDS

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TIM NEVENS (P. 10)  
GEO HEAT (P. 14)

**MORE FUN!**  
NEWS QUIZ (P. 36)  
FREE-WILL ASTROLOGER (P. 70)



## ⊗ CALCOKU BY JOSH REYNOLDS

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

For the checking the numbers 1 to 9 only once in each row and column. The numbers are known outlined "cage" must contain the number in the last column using the numbers in the cage. A cage may contain the number 1 to 9 only once in the last column. A cage may contain the number 1 to 9 only once in the last column. A cage may contain the number 1 to 9 only once in the last column.

## ⊗ SUDOKU BY JOSH REYNOLDS

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★★**

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, each column, row and each 3x3 square contains a set of the numbers 1 to 9. The same numbers cannot be repeated in a row or column.

★ = MODERATE ★★★ = CHALLENGING ★★★★★ = HOT BOY! — FIND ANSWERS & CROSSWORD IN THE CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

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**Doug Ogg**



*Apollo at 13*

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